

Qatari premier visits S. Arabia

ADH (Agencies) — Qatar's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani arrived Sunday for talks with the Saudi Arabian leadership following the settlement of a border dispute between the two countries. The official Qatari News Agency (QNA) reported his arrival without elaborating. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak mediated a settlement last week to the dispute that kept tension high between the two countries since a flareup on the disputed frontier Sept. 30 in which two people were killed. The Egyptian-brokered agreement, which included a preliminary delineating the border, was signed by the Saudi, Qatari and Egyptian foreign ministers in the Holy City of Medina in the presence of Mr. Mubarak. Saudi King Fahd and the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, A joint commission is to demarcate the borders within a year of the date of the agreement. The crown prince was in the capital to pursue the implementation of the accord. Arab diplomats said that Saudi Arabia blamed the border crisis mainly on Sheikh Hamad. He was running the country when the clash occurred. Sheikh Hamad was not with his father Sheikh Khalifa when he signed Saudi Arabia and signed the deal last Sunday.



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Jordan honours chief of ATF

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty Hussein Sunday conferred the First Order of the Arab Republic (ATF) on former Attorney General of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr. Yassin in appreciation of his efforts and scientific status. The award was presented to Mr. Yassin at a special ceremony held in his honour and in the presence of the new ATF secretary general, Ali Omleel.

Returns home

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Shari Zeid Ben Shaker returned to Amman Sunday following a several-day visit to London during which he met His Majesty King Hussein.

isia sets actions

AMMAN (R) — Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali announced Sunday that presidential and legislative elections will be held in March 1994, as stipulated by the constitution. Mr. Ali, in a speech to parliament, also announced the election of the assembly will be held in the assembly. All 141 seats are currently held by the ruling party.

illed in Algiers

ALGERIA (R) — Unidentified gunmen killed a civilian Sunday in the Medea region south of Algiers. The official APS news agency said. APS quoted police as saying the attack brought to six the number of people killed in the week in the area 70 kilometres south of Algiers. Barzani said three policemen were shot and wounded on Saturday in the Aures mountains, 200 kilometres southeast of Algiers. The police patrol was fired by shots coming from a group of "armed terrorists," a military unit officially used to fight fundamentalists linked to the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), APS said.

id appointed binet minister

AMMAN (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appointed a left-wing gadfly Yossi Sarid to his cabinet Sunday, igniting the dovish wing of government. Mr. Sarid and party, Meretz, back direct negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the Middle East peace talks. Sarid had demanded Mr. Rabin's appointment when Mr. Rabin formed the governing coalition in July. But Mr. Rabin's away from Mr. Sarid, who is sharply criticised Mr. Rabin's policies as defense minister from 1984 to 1990. Mr. Sarid took over the environment ministry from the Labour Party's Amir, who will move to the Ministry of Agriculture, a portfolio that was not expected to have the getting the appointments with the parliament.

nam hints at with Israel

AMMAN (AP) — A commercial delegation from Vietnam met with foreign ministry officials and discussed the possibility of diplomatic relations with Israel, a ministry statement said. Vietnam has never had diplomatic ties, and the first contact was an Israeli ministerial visit to the communist state last March. The delegation met with Yosef Hadas, foreign minister of the foreign ministry. The ministry statement said the two sides agreed "there is a limit to potential cultural, economic and commercial ties" between the two countries.

Israel rules out reversing expulsion, offers appeal chance

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL OFFERED no humanitarian concessions Sunday to the 415 Palestinians it expelled to Lebanon, but promised them speedy access to military tribunals that would consider letting them return to their homes in the occupied territories. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israeli military tribunals would be set up to hear appeals to overturn expulsion orders on an individual basis. They spoke after meeting separately with U.N. Under-Secretary-General James Jonah, who was sent to the Middle East after the U.N. Security Council denounced the expulsions and demanded they be annulled.

The men were expelled Dec. 17 after six Israeli troops were killed in 10 days by Muslim fundamentalists. Hoping to force Israel into taking them back, Lebanon barred supplies from reaching their encampment. Mr. Rabin has refused to allow the convoys through Israeli lines. In a statement to reporters, Mr. Rabin said the expulsions were "indefinite" and "not a final decision." He said the aim was to kill Israeli and Palestinian and thus "to kill the peace negotiations." Opinion polls show public backing for the expulsions. But the humanitarian issue of food and fuel for the stranded men has proved more problematic for Mr. Rabin.

At a cabinet meeting Friday, he

only narrowly defeated a move by dovish ministers to allow the supplies to go through.

The supreme court, acting on an appeal by Arab lawmaker Abdul Wahab Darawshe, Sunday gave the government 72 hours to explain why the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) should not be allowed access to the victims from Israeli-held territory.

In an apparent extra effort to soften Palestinian outrage, Mr. Rabin repeated his invitation to the Palestinian delegation to Mideast peace talks to meet with him in occupied Jerusalem.

He noted that in the past this offer had been rejected, but on Friday, Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini was non-committal about the idea.

Initially, Israeli officials were confident the Lebanese would soon relax the blockade and the drama would evaporate from the headlines. But so far this has not happened, and it could account for the stress the government is now placing on the appeals option.

The tribunals have rarely overturned expulsion orders. But the latest expulsion was so sweeping and hurried that Israeli newspapers say that this time dozens of Palestinians could win their appeals.

Mr. Rabin said: "The appeals committees will work immediately upon receiving the appeals, whenever they come." He said the first appeal has already been received.

The dilemma for the evictees is that by exercising their right of appeal, they could appear to be lending legitimacy to the Israeli move.

Mr. Rabin made no statements, but Mr. Peres said the envoy avoided prescribing solutions and indicated

the talks were amicable. He said Mr. Jonah asked him, "What is the best way out of the situation," to which Mr. Peres replied by citing the appeals committees.

He said Israel thought the Security Council resolution was biased in not mentioning the killing of Israeli troops, but he added: "We want to cooperate with the United Nations. The United Nations is not a hostile organisation but a sympathetic one."

Lebanese Information Minister Michel Samaha said Beirut wanted the United Nations to force Israel to take the Palestinians.

"There is no other end (but sending them back) and we are looking for no other end," said Mr. Samaha, who accused Israel of terrorising the Palestinian people by expelling them to Lebanon.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz, quoting army sources, said Sunday six of the 415 Palestinians were victims of mistaken identity and should not have been forced into exile. The army spokesman's office had no official comment on the report.

Haaretz, quoting unidentified sources in both the army and the "civil administration" that supervises the occupied territories, said there had been confusion because the operation to expel the Palestinians on Dec. 17 was done in haste.

"Six of the 415 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists expelled to Lebanon were expelled by mistake — so it arises from final investigations by the Israeli army into the expulsion process," the newspaper said.

"A senior source in the 'civil administration' said there was no need to expel the six, and it was a technical error," the newspaper said.

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Sheikh Isa names majlis

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The emir Sunday named a Shiite Muslim speaker for the 30-member Majlis Al Shura (consultative council), a move seen here as a step towards democratisation. Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa appointed all members of the council, under Communications Minister Ibrahim Al Humaidan as speaker. He relinquished his portfolio to take the new post. About half the hand-picked council members were drawn from the Shiite sect, which is preponderant in Bahrain although the emir and his family are from the Sunni sect.

There is no census based on religious affiliation in Bahrain, but the Shiites are believed to make about 60 per cent of the country's population of nearly half a million.

Conspicuously absent in the list of council members were members of the ruling Al Khalifa family.

The council comprises wealthy merchants, leading businessmen and members of prominent families, both Shiite and Sunni. A group of petitioners had asked the emir to drop the idea of an appointed council in favour of an elected one. Bahrain had an elected parliament from 1973 to 1975, but the emir dissolved it after it criticised the government.

The Majlis Al Shura is an Islamic-style parliament that the Arab countries of the Gulf have preferred for popular participation.

The appointed council is empowered to propose legislation for the government to enact or reject.

The emir has pledged that the democratic experiment could be further developed, without giving details.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has promised his country a 60-member, royally appointed Majlis Al Shura but to date has only named the speaker.

Of the Gulf Arab countries, only Kuwait has an elected parliament.

A decree issued by Sheikh Isa, said the council will be convened from Jan. 16 to May 31. The council's sessions will be closed to the public. The list contains no women, nor any members of the ruling family, which plays a major role in the cabinet.

Stranded Palestinians get smuggled food

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinian evictees stranded in a snow-blanketed tent city between Israel and Lebanese troops received smuggled supplies Sunday that eased a food shortage.

The fresh supplies, smuggled on donkeys across mountain trails in southeast Lebanon, coincided with the arrival in Israel of a U.N. envoy who was trying to end the Palestinians' 10-day ordeal.

The group of 415 spent the day tossing snowballs, exercising to warm up and appealing for the evacuation of a seriously wounded comrade.

They cheered when a food-laden donkey entered their makeshift Jerusalem Camp for Quick Return around noon (1000 GMT) carrying dozens of cans containing peas, beans, jam,

cheese and yogurt as well as eggs, bread and a skinned calf.

Villagers from the central Bekaa Valley, renowned for smuggling goods across the border with neighbouring Syria, also walked across olive groves carrying plastic canisters full of kerosene for the evictees' heaters.

After unloading the fresh supplies into their tent warehouse, the refugees started cooking potato and meat using butane gas cylinders apparently smuggled before daylight.

Hussein Abu Koweil, the evictees' storekeeper, said the supplies were smuggled by "sympathisers."

A Lebanese army officer at the Marj Al Zohour checkpoint, five

(Continued on page 5)

PLO-Hamas meeting fails to end dispute

TUNIS (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and its main rival, the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas, have failed to agree on how to confront Israel but promised to continue discussions, a Hamas leader said Sunday.

Mohammad Nazzari, a Hamas spokesman, told reporters the dispute over Hamas' demand for a Palestinian pullout from peace talks with Israel remained unresolved after five days of discussions with PLO leaders in Tunis.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat initiated the talks with Hamas in an effort to improve relations with the fundamentalist group following Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians.

"I may say that we had points of disagreement and points of agreement. Top of the points of disagreement was the withdrawal from the negotiations, which we insisted upon and the PLO leadership refused," Mr. Nazzari said.

"We stick to our point that the PLO leadership call for a withdrawal from the talks and agree to a programme of (holy war) that we proposed," he said.

Mr. Nazzari then showed reporters a copy of a joint statement that Hamas signed with the PLO that he said was void of any commitment by the PLO to withdraw from the 14-month-old negotiations.

The communique laid out

Hamas' demand for the Palestinian negotiators to pull out of the talks but with no reference to the PLO answer to the demand.

The communique also stated Hamas was supportive of "other parties in its demand for the withdrawal," a reference to hard-line groups that oppose the peace talks. Mr. Nazzari said his group hopes to continue the talks with the PLO and its mainstream Fateh organisation to discuss their unresolved differences.

He said Hamas' four-man team only agreed fully with Mr. Arafat on efforts to force Israel to return the expelled Palestinians to their homes.

Mr. Nazzari said Hamas would step up armed resistance to the Israeli forces inside the occupied territories regardless of the position of the PLO and the continuation of the peace talks.

"We don't receive instructions from any person. We are an independent movement and nobody can stop us from conducting armed struggle," he said.

But Mr. Nazzari described the talks his group had with Mr. Arafat as "conducted in a positive atmosphere," and said the two sides would hold further talks in Khartoum, Sudan, Saturday.

Mr. Nazzari however ruled out the possibility of Hamas' joining the PLO soon and said the group demanded major changes in the PLO and its affiliated institutions before it could join them.

(Continued on page 2)

House endorses draft press law

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday endorsed the draft press and publication law despite a general perception that the legislation will stifle the freedom of the press in the country.

Parliament approved an oppressive law at a time when it should have been working for broadening freedoms. Deputy Abdul Karim Al Dughmi (Marraq) told the Jordan Times at the end of the three-and-a-half-hour session.

The House voted on the law in its entirety after accepting the unconstitutionality of putting already-approved articles to new vote against the recommendation of its Judiciary Committee.

In a report to the House, the Judiciary Committee said it was legal for the House to reconsider articles already voted on but the ministers of justice and parliamentary affairs and other deputies asserted the debate would be unconstitutional.

Citing Article 45 of the House's internal regulations, Minister of Justice Youssef Mbaideen said the

House "will be committing a major violation of the Constitution if it puts to vote already approved articles."

Judiciary Committee Chairman Salim Zoubi (Ramtha) countered the minister's argument but the House eventually decided to end debate of the draft law and vote on it in its entirety.

Eleven deputies supported a motion to reject the draft law while 33 out of 61 voted in favour of endorsing the legislation; fourteen abstained.

"We were bogged down in a legal deadlock," Amman Deputy and former Prime Minister Taher Al Masri told the Jordan Times Sunday. He said the majority of deputies supported a new vote on some of the controversial articles of the law but this was not legally possible.

The controversial articles are Article Five, which forces journalists to reveal their sources of information in a court of law, Article Two, which restricts recognition as journalists to members of the Jordan Press Association, and Article 42, which bans coverage of a wide range of economic, political and social issues.

The draft legislation was severely criticised by journalists as a setback to the democratic reforms initiated in the Kingdom three years ago. Journalists and other opponents of the draft legislation said the law would deny the press its role in a pluralistic society and curb its ability to report freely on issues of public interest.

A press campaign against the draft legislation last week reportedly prompted a change in some deputies' stand, but hopes that the House would reconsider its position were dashed Saturday when a meeting of parliamentary blocs failed to reach agreement on certain articles in the law.

Before endorsing the draft law, the House voted to abolish Article 52, which spells out penalties against journalists who violate articles 42 and 53, and 56, which prescribes punishment for violators of other provisions of the draft law. The House endorsed articles 54, 56, and 57 which also specify punishments.

The House's endorsement of the legislation was seen by observers as a victory for the government whose supporters in the

House presented fierce arguments against reexamining already approved articles.

The draft law, which Deputy Mansour Murad (Amman) described as "harmful to national interests," will now be referred to the Upper House of Parliament (Senate), which has the right to reject it or amend it and refer it back to the House or endorse it and send it to His Majesty King Hussein for ratification. The King has the constitutional right to veto the draft legislation.

While Mr. Masri expected the Senate to vote down the draft legislation, Mr. Zoubi saw little chances for that and reiterated that the draft legislation was an improvement upon its predecessor.

The draft law as approved by the House is "a punishment not freedoms law," said Mr. Dughmi, who expected the Senate to turn it down.

But according to Mr. Dughmi, the House will only be able to readress articles amended or rejected by the Upper House if it sends back the draft legislation, "which fails protect us from the government."

U.S. jet downs Iraqi plane

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — A U.S. AIR Force F-16 shot down an Iraqi aircraft that crossed inside the United Nations "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq early Sunday, a U.S. military spokesman said.

The U.S. aircraft was unharmed, said Lieutenant-Colonel Marc Martens, a spokesman at U.S. Central Command. The fate of the Iraqi pilot in the downed aircraft was unknown.

Iraq said it reserved the right to respond to the shooting down.

"We will reserve the right to respond to this aggression in the suitable manner and at an appropriate time," an official spokesman said in a statement read on television.

He said the plane was shot down while "on a routine patrol over our national territory and within our borders this morning."

The confrontation occurred at 0800 GMT about 30 kilometres south of the 32nd Parallel after two Iraqi planes in separate incidents had entered the "no-fly" zone within 20 minutes, Martens said.

At that time two F-16s approached the Iraqi planes and issued verbal warnings to the pilots, who "turned to confront the U.S. aircraft," he said.

"One Iraqi aircraft was destroyed. The other escaped back north out of the no-fly zone," he said.

The U.S. pilots allowed an Iraqi search and rescue helicopter to fly to the crash site in the "no-fly" zone and then return its base.

It was the first Iraqi aircraft destroyed since the allies from the Gulf war decreed a "no-fly" zone on Aug. 27 for Iraqi warplanes south of the 32nd Parallel.

The United States, Britain and France guard two "no-fly" zones, one below the 32nd Parallel in an ostensible effort to prevent Iraqi planes and helicopter gunships attacking attacking dissidents in the southern marshlands, and the second in the north above the 36th Parallel to protect Kurds.

The Iraqi spokesman said he was confident that "this criminal act perpetrated by the poles of the imperialist and Zionist aggression will be the subject of disdain from our people and the Arab Nation."

"We hold the aggressors accountable for their unjustified crime," the spokesman said.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said in remarks published Sunday he would apply "the rule of law" in northern Iraq once the West removes its air umbrella over the region's Kurdish population.

His comments on Dec. 19, to Bulent Ecevit, leader of the Turkish Democratic Left Party, were made only days before Turkey extended the mandate of U.S., British and French forces based on its territory to guard rebel

Independents quit Islamic front

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Seventeen prominent members of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) resigned Sunday in protest over the Muslim Brotherhood's domination of the front's 120-seat consultative council, despite prior agreement between independents and the Brotherhood to allocate a third of the seats for the independents.

In a letter to the IAF's acting president, the signatories said they were resigning "to allow the party to remain, as many others have described it, just another face of the Muslim Brotherhood."

The IAF held its first elections for a consultative council Friday but delayed the choosing of a 17-member executive committee, speaker of the consultative council as well as a president of the IAF for technical reasons.

The elections highlighted a fear among independents that the Brotherhood would end up controlling the front, rather than leaving it a base for all Islamists and not simply as a political action base for the movement, which has maintained its status as a charity organisation.

It was this fear, moderate Brotherhood members say, that led them to work towards recruiting independents to the front despite cries among the more entrenched movement members to keep their gains and not share them with outsiders.

However, the results of Friday's elections showed that areas recognised as strongholds of Brotherhood hawks in Amman and some of its suburbs worked to maintain the movement's dominance of the front by voting independents out. In other major cities, such as Irbid, Zarqa and Salt, the results showed a 30 to 50 per cent success for the independents.

To avoid conflict and the breaking of the front, a meeting was held

Sunday between a delegation headed by Ishaq Farhan, the acting president of the IAF, and the independents to iron out differences. Reports differed over the details of the meeting.

According to the sources among independents, Mr. Farhan, who was accompanied by Adnan Jalouli, a member of the Brotherhood's executive committee, offered to ask some movement members to resign and allow for by-elections to bring in more independents.

However, Brotherhood sources rejected this report and maintained that the independents asked that such a move be taken before they withdraw their resignation.

The meeting took place in the home of Rafea Najim, who was elected to the consultative council despite his absence from the meeting Friday but who was among those who resigned from the council.

In addition to Mr. Najim those who

(Continued on page 5)

Iran steps up attack on GCC

NICOSIA (R) — Iran stepped up attacks on its Gulf Arab neighbours over three disputed islands Sunday and warned it would cut off the arms of anyone with claims on its territory.

"We will curtail the hands of those who have the least territorial ambitions against Iran," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri as saying in parliament.

IRNA said 190 deputies of the 270-seat parliament issued a statement urging Gulf Arab states "to avoid any act which may sow discord among Muslims."

The deputies said territorial claims in the Gulf region were "not to the benefit of anyone, and those states which once fostered such claims gained nothing but damage and destruction for themselves and the region."

The Iranian statement was the latest since a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit Wednesday voiced support for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in its dispute with Iran over the island of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunb islands.

The GCC — which besides the UAE also groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia — asked Iran to reverse what it sees as the annexation of Abu Musa to pull out of the two other islands.

On Saturday, Iran's Supreme National Security Council told the GCC states it was ready to defend the three disputed islands militarily and reminded them of Iran's eight-year war with Iraq.

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said in his Friday prayer sermon the Gulf states "will have to cross a sea of blood" to reach the islands.

Iran has dismissed a UAE claim to the islands as unfounded and said a 1971 agreement to share Abu Musa with the UAE emirate of Sharjah still applied.

It says the islands near the entrance to the Gulf have historically belonged to it. The dispute flared this year after Iran tightened its control over Abu Musa.

"Our eight-year defence (in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war) has proved to the world that our brave nation will never hesitate to defend the sovereignty and safeguard the territorial integrity of Iran," the SNSC said Saturday.

The SNSC, quoted by IRNA, also criticised the GCC and described its support of the UAE as "irresponsible."

"No country will ever be able to covet even an inch of Iranian soil," said the SNSC.

Earlier on Saturday, the English language Tehran Times, believed to be close to the Foreign Ministry, said the UAE should be aware that Iran's self-restraint had certain limits.

The idea of Abu Dhabi officials that Tehran would always refrain from responding to the blows inflicted by them was childish," Tehran Times said.

IRNA said the newspaper was commenting on the GCC statement which urged Iran to reverse what it says is the annexation of Abu Musa Island and to pull out of the two other islands.

Arab Bank

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Expelled Palestinians say they are not going home soon

By Bassem Haggi
Reuter

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon — Many more than 400 Palestinian evictees, spending a freezing tenth night in South Lebanon, realise they will not see their homes soon.

"There's a big barricade between us and Palestine," said one who gave his name as Mohammad late Saturday as he pointed to Israel's "security zone" some four kilometres south of the expelled Palestinians' tent encampment.

"I don't think we are going back soon," he added.

The 415, expelled last week by Israel which says they are linked to hostile groups, spend days milling about the muddy makeshift camp, cooking meagre meals on camp fires or talking to journalists.

Sporadic snowfalls send them back to the dark-green tents, where they spend nights in freezing temperatures.

"Getting out of here all depends on international pressure," said Atif Adwan, 42, an assistant professor of politics at the Islamic University in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

"If the United States and United Nations push Israel it may work to get us to our homes...if the Israelis took us back, at least they would be seen as human beings. But I don't think they care," he added.

Israel turned down a request by the International Red Cross (ICRC) Friday to supply the evictees with clean drinking water, clothes, food and medicine through its "security zone."

Lebanon, which has barred all supplies to the camp since Monday, rebuffed appeals from the head of the evictees' medical team, Dr. Omar Farwana, on Saturday to take ill and wounded Palestinians to hospital in territory under Beirut's control.

In Geneva, ICRC spokesman Claude Voillat said both Lebanon and Israel were violating the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 by barring aid to reach the camp. He said the ICRC was seeking more talks with the two countries on supplying the group.

Dr. Farwana said Lebanese soldiers stopped him leaving the area to collect the medical records of a seriously ill Palestinian from a hospital in the village of Dahr Al Ahmar.

He said the soldiers told him they would bring the records for Zuheir Labbada — suffering from a kidney infection and pneumonia — which he urgently needed to know how to treat him.

"I was in bad shape in hospital, so how do you think I feel here when there is no food and it is very cold?" said Mr. Labbada in tent number 23, which the evictees call the "clinic."



Hundreds of Israeli Arabs demonstrate by a prayer Sunday against the expulsion of 415 Palestinians in front of the office of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in occupied Jerusalem (AFP photo)

In the tent was Amjad Zamel, badly wounded in the chin by shrapnel from shelling by Israel's militia allies last week. He cannot speak and has to be fed glucose solution intravenously.

"These sick people need the equipment and attention provided in a hospital. We have no sufficient means to treat severe cases here," said a doctor looking after the two.

On Friday Lebanese troops took eight wounded and sick people from a hospital in Dahr Al Ahmar back to the camp and stopped four ailing Palestinians being taken out for treatment.

"We blame Israel...but did not expect the Lebanese army to be so tough," Mr. Labbada said.

Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri told Reuters: "We feel for the Palestinians in their suffering but cannot permit them to enter our territory under any circumstances. Israel expelled them so they are Israel's responsibility."

Evictee leaders, trying to instill confidence in their men, insist they would stay put wedged between Lebanese and Israeli army lines until a solution is found for their ordeal.

"We don't want to enter Lebanon. We are ready to sacrifice ourselves...in order to go back home...even if the sick die," one leader, Aziz Duwaik, said.

Zaid Wehbeh, an envoy of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, backed Lebanon

stopping aid reaching the group from its side.

Israel's militia ally, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), on Saturday opened fire on guerrillas who infiltrated into the zone, some 55 kilometres southwest of the tent camp.

An SLA militiaman was wounded in the firefight. The body of a guerrilla was found with weapons near the ambush site.

Security sources said the dead man was from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. They said this first Palestinian infiltration into the zone in six months was apparently in retaliation against the expulsions.

In Tel Aviv, hundreds of Israelis marched in pouring rain to protest against the expulsions.

U.N. warns Kabul world aid in jeopardy

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The United Nations warned Afghanistan's feuding leaders Sunday to settle their differences or risk losing the international aid they desperately need to rebuild their war-devastated country.

"I'm afraid that if the instability continues the donors may start losing interest in Afghanistan," said Sotirios Mousouris, the secretary-general's personal representative in Afghanistan.

"Frequent outbreaks of hostilities, particularly in Kabul, are compounding the hardships faced by the Afghan people in a country already devastated by a 14-year war and now experiencing a harsh winter," he said.

After sweeping the former communist rulers from power in April, rebels turned their guns on each other, killing and wounding

tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, and making another 500,000 exiles in their own country.

Kabul's one million people are bracing for another round of fighting as rebel leaders seem headed for another violent showdown over the convening of a shura, or grand council, to choose Afghanistan's next leaders. The council, due to convene in mid-December, has been delayed by charges of bribery and vote-buying.

Most of the main 10 rebel chiefs want the council to be delayed until the treacherous, snow-blocked mountain passes are open in the spring. But no one wants Interim President Burhanuddin Rabbani to remain in power.

Mr. Mousouris said two repre-

sentatives from the United Nations and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) were in Kabul to try to figure out whether the council would be held, and if it is, whether it would represent the majority of Afghans.

Mr. Rabbani has asked the United Nations to monitor the council and to help pay for it. But Mr. Mousouris said the world body would not do either if there is no consensus among the squabbling rebel leadership.

"I am making a plea to the Afghan leadership to reach a consensus and allow the democratic process to go on," he said.

The alternative, he warned, was to be ostracised by the international aid community.

Mr. Mousouris said the United

Nations received only half of the \$180 million it requested to provide emergency aid to Afghanistan between June and December 1992. Only one per cent of that got to Kabul because of the frequent fighting, he said.

Mr. Mousouris said a 40-truck convoy was stuck in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar waiting for a guarantee of safe passage to take food and fuel to Kabul.

He said the United Nations will launch another appeal for aid sometime next month, but he warned the response would not be good if the rebel factions are still waging war.

"I urgently renew my plea to all parties concerned to cease hostilities and permit the free movement of food and relief supplies provided by the United Nations," Mr. Mousouris said.

Pirates attack Thai Ship in Red Sea

SANAA (R) — Pirates attacked a Thai cargo ship in the Red Sea, killing its engineer and wounding its captain and two crew members, a Yemeni security official said Sunday.

Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Al Shami, deputy chief of security at the port of Hodeidah, told Reuters the MV Soya was attacked in international waters off Yemen Thursday night after it left Aden with phosphate for Sri Lanka.

He said security forces and a medical team rushed to the vessel and treated the wounded.

"We cannot identify the attackers, but my personal point of view is that the incident was a deliberate attempt to ruin the reputation of the corridor and the region which has been safe and secure for many years," Col. Shami said.

"This is the first incident to happen in this region and we never expected it," he said.

Yemeni naval units and aircraft were searching for the pirates, Col. Shami added.

He said the dead engineer was Indian. Two of the wounded, including the captain who was only slightly hurt, were also Indian. The other wounded crew member was a Thai who was still in hospital in stable condition.

The vessel was in Hodeidah port on Saturday where it was being repaired after being damaged by rocket propelled grenades fired by the pirates.

Lloyd's casualty reporting service quoted the captain as saying the ship was attacked for 15 minutes while it was dead in water making engine repairs.

He said the pirates directed small arms fire at the bridge, shattering its windows. They then fired rocket propelled grenades, killing the engineer.

Mogadishu 'green line' set to go

By Paul Holmes
Reuter

MOGADISHU — The top two rival warlords in Mogadishu have agreed to tear down the "green line" war boundary that divides the city and stop clan clashes in and around the Somali capital, a senior U.S. official said Sunday.

The accord between rivals Mohammad Farah Aided and Ali Mahdi Mohammad, Somalia's self-styled president, said the two warlords would lead a big peace rally in Mogadishu Monday to scrap the bombed out dividing line.

"On this occasion all artificial lines in the city will be abolished," a copy of the agreement made available to reporters said. Hostilities would cease "inside and outside Mogadishu in areas where up to now fighting has continued."

Mr. Ali Mahdi and General Aided signed the deal at the end of a five-hour meeting at the U.S. mission in Mogadishu Saturday after talks with the U.S. special envoy to Somalia, Ambassador Robert Oakley, the U.S. official said.

Americo troops would also fan out on the streets of Mogadishu both in the south and in Mr. Ali Mahdi's northern enclave over the next several days to locate and remove heavy weapons.

"Heavy weapons will be removed voluntarily, or if necessary by force, and with the agreement of Somalis," the official, who asked not to be identified, told reporters.

"From now on we're going to be doing more enforcement."

The green line, which takes its name from the old boundary between east and west Beirut, is a deserted and often deadly dividing line which splits Mr. Ali Mahdi's northern enclave from territory Gen. Aided controls in the south.

It has existed since the warlords turned their guns on each other after warring to oust dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991. Their bloody feud is responsible for much of the devastation and resultant famine in southern Somalia.

Disarmament of the green line and a halt to fighting were among seven points in a peace accord reached between Gen. Aided and Mr. Ali Mahdi two days after the start of the U.S.-led military intervention to protect famine relief in the country.

So far, only one point of the Dec. 11 accord has been implemented — removal early this week by each side about 700 of their "technical" battlewagons to outside Mogadishu.

But the U.S. official said he was encouraged that the latest deal might stick because leaders of three Mogadishu sub-clans involved in sporadic fighting in and around the capital since Dec. 9 were at Saturday's meeting.

"The fact that the leadership of all three clans was there in one way or another with the Ali Mahdi and Aided groups and they pledged themselves to put an end to this may make it happen," the American official said.

"There's a better prospect than there has been in the past."

Troops in the U.S.-led multinational task force have so far held back from an aggressive search for weapons in areas they control in central and southern Somalia.

2 Somali gunmen shot dead in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Two Somali gunmen were killed and several others wounded during a shoot-out at a U.N. compound in north Mogadishu, a U.N. spokesman said Sunday.

Farouk Mawlawi, spokesman for the U.N. relief operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), said men with machineguns and rocket launchers attacked a compound housing five U.N. military observers early Saturday afternoon.

Somali guards returned fire, killing at least two gunmen and wounding several others, Mr. Mawlawi said.

No-one among the guards or in the compound was hurt, he said.

The multinational task force sent assistance in the form of U.S. F-18 jets which screamed over the area. The observers were evacuated from the compound by Pakistani U.N. peacekeepers.

The motive for the attack was not known, Mr. Mawlawi said. Meanwhile, about 100 Somali trucks bearing protest signs lined both sides of the road in front of the American embassy Sunday to complain about the importation of foreign vehicles to haul food aid.

"We are protesting against the 100 trucks being brought in from Ethiopia to take food from the port," said Abdullahi Mohammad Rooryay, a member of the truckers committee and one of the leaders of the demonstration.

The World Food Programme, in an attempt to speed up delivery

of food to the arranged to import drivers from Ethiopia.

"We were unhappy during the or Rooryay said, refe civil war that follow of dictator Mohamm re. "Our vehicles has to work."

The U.N. humanisation immediate protests from local troled by General Farrah Aided, one try's most powerul.

Most Somali truck plorable condition; Gemmo Lodesani, a tor of the WFP, Mar able of making lon heavy loads over ten.

What is more, to charge twice the regt for hauling, 30 cent per kilometre com cents.

Mr. Rooryay said icians had been min out the condition trucks. "We have 5, able trucks," Mr. Ro.

The protesting in signs reading: "I trucks." "We don't ISOM's plan to im ployment," and "Sou trucks."

"Fifteen thousand ers are unemployed used to drive these fore the crisis," he s towards the banged fleet of vehicles: e embassy. "To make ers unemployed is a

Iraq accuses Saudis, Kuwaitis of economic sabotage

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq's trade minister has accused Saudi Arabia and Kuwait of attempting to sabotage Iraq's sanctions-battered economy and cut off food supplies, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Sunday.

"The Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers are using...smugglers to take sheep and food supplies from Iraq in return for large amounts of money," Mohammad Mahdi Saleh was quoted as saying in the Al-Jomhuriyah daily, according to INA.

"The smuggled sheep and food supplies are burned on receipt along the border," he said.

There was no independent confirmation of the Iraqi allegations. The U.N. Security Council Nov. 23 rebuffed Baghdad's repeated calls to at least ease the sanctions because Iraq has failed to comply with the terms of the U.N. ceasefire resolution which ended last year's Gulf war.

Iraq's 18 million people have been suffering misery since the United Nations imposed a trade embargo on Iraq in August 1990 after its forces invaded Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia boasted the 700,000-strong U.S.-led coalition forces which drove the Iraqis out of Kuwait after seven months of occupation in February last year.

Food is still reported to be available in Iraq despite the sanctions. But prices have skyrocketed, putting it beyond the means of most people.

INA said Arab news reports have a Saudi and Kuwaiti banning Iraq's economy.

"Iraqi customs officers apprehended two ga were smuggling sheep, and selling them at ma the Iraqi-Saudi border tant prices," INA sai

Baghdad's Health ported Thursday that 3,700 people — mo children under five y died in Iraq in Novem of the sanctions. The were listed as main, arthrosis and pneumo

Altogether, the fr ment has claimed that 100,000 people have the sanctions were in

There was no way feenly verify those a Western relief ager itoted widespread he lens and a sharp incre fatalities.

Mr. Saleh also acc Arabia and Kuwait Iraqis access to basic phies by buying them flated prices.

"When the Ministr concludes an agreea any commodity, the Kuwaiti rulers follow buying the commodity tant prices in a bid t Iraqi people access to sumer products," Mr. quoted as saying.

INA said Arab a news reports have a Saudi and Kuwaiti banning Iraq's econo

"Iraqi customs offi apprehended two ga were smuggling sheep, and selling them at ma the Iraqi-Saudi border tant prices," INA sai

U.S. jet downs Iraqi warplane

(Continued from page 1)

Iraqi Kurds from attack.

"Once foreign troops are out, the people in the north all kick these elements (Kurdish rebels) out and establish peace and security in this area as part of Iraq," President Saddam said.

"We wish when the circumstances are better to apply the rule of law in northern Iraq," he said.

He stressed his government had no plans to carry out military operations that would lead to

another mass exodu Kurds. He said he w conduct a dialogue on represented a source to them.

He said he had au autonomy to offer I who now run the O Last April, they clea ment and later dec Kurdistan a federate

He said Iraq would go to war if the all include the oil-rich c within the Kurdish tion.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel could expect more emigres

MOSCOW (R) — Ninety per cent of Jews living in six large cities in the Commonwealth of Independent States want to leave, Russian television said this weekend. The television said a survey conducted among the Jewish communities in the six cities showed that nine out of 10 were ready to quit their homes, despite fears about where they would find work. It said the opinion poll, conducted by Israel's semi-official Jewish Agency, suggested that emigration to Israel from CIS states would increase next year. More than 400,000 people have moved to Israel from the former Soviet Union since late 1989. But the speed of the exodus has slowed this year amid rising Israeli unemployment and a shortage of jobs for qualified workers. Israeli immigration officials said earlier this year that 37,000 former Soviet Jews moved to the United States and Germany in the first half of 1992, while just 30,000 moved to Israel.

One killed, 90 held in Lebanon raids

BEIRUT (R) — One man was killed in a shootout on Saturday as police, backed by Lebanese and Syrian soldiers, stormed gang hideouts across Lebanon and held some 90 suspects, officials said. The force confiscated a large quantity of weapons, forged money, drugs and recovered several stolen cars in the eastern Bekaa Valley, north Lebanon and mountain villages southeast of Beirut, they said. The official name of the man, who was shot dead in a clash in a north Lebanon village. The 1,500-strong unit arrested around 90 people, accused of drug processing and

trafficking, car theft, forging currency and using fake money, they added. The Beirut government, seeking to impose its authority, has cracked down on drug growing and trafficking and has launched several security sweeps across the country.

Israeli gunboat fires on Lebanese fishermen

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — An Israeli gunboat opened fire on a Lebanese fishing boat off the coast of South Lebanon Sunday, wounding a fisherman, security sources said. They named the injured fisherman as Ibrahim Houtman, 36, and said he was taken to hospital in the southern Lebanese port of Tyre after the gunboat strafed his boat with machinegunfire. Israeli gunboats regularly patrol off Lebanon to intercept sea-borne guerrillas attempting to infiltrate the Jewish state.

Tobacco taxes to rise in GCC

DUBAI (R) — Six Gulf Arab states have agreed to raise customs duty on cigarettes, tobacco and tobacco products by 20 per cent to 50 per cent as of March, a Gulf newspaper said Sunday. The English language Khaleej Times quoted officials as saying the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) approved the new rise at their annual summit in Abu Dhabi Wednesday. The GCC — which groups Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — has an ambitious plan to form a common market. The new tobacco tax is part of measures to unify tariffs which currently range between four and 20 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Pif at Herodas
18:10	Page Four
19:00	News in French
19:15	Magazine Sportif
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Stop by Stop
21:10	A Fine Romance
22:00	News in English
22:30	The Dismissal
PRAYER TIMES	
05:07	Fajr
06:29	Sunrise (Duba)
11:37	Dhuhr
14:21	Asr
16:04	Maghreb
18:06	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlikh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De in Sofia Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasante Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 62826, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932	
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675091	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
A rise in temperature will take place and some clouds will appear at various altitudes. Winds will be easterly moderate. In Agaba winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	2/7
Agaba	4/15
Decora	3/9
Jordan Valley	2/14
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 5, Agaba 17 Humidity readings:	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Abdul Kader Al Lala	696048
Dr. Walid Al Masri	675485
Dr. Shabaneh Enani	784772
Dr. Nidal Al Dalah	627195
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fordows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairooth pharmacy	626672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsani pharmacy	637660
Nairooth pharmacy	626672
Najib pharmacy	847632
REPAIRS:	
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	623101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
REPAIRS:	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	892228
Blood Bank	773121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630221
Hotel Complaints	661176
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	771111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
REPAIRS:	
Dr. Hussein Husein	248434
Khalifah pharmacy	985417

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussain Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Ana	642816
Atikah Maternity, J. Ana	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642562
Mahlas, J. Amman	636140
Palatine, Shamsani	664114
Shamsani Hospital	669151
University Hospital	845845
Al-Mushar Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abdali	6661757
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	7771012
Al-Badli, J. Asrafieh	7711176
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	60224050
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al-Hilal Modern Hospital	(09)999990
IBRAHIM:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)225555
Great Catholic Hospital	(02)227225
The Al-Nafes Hospital	(02)247100
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (06)2200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:15	Sman (RJ)
08:45	Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
08:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15	Riyadh (RJ)
09:20	Damascus (RJ)
10:15	Beirut (RJ)
10:45	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:45	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
11:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:50	Bangkok (RJ)
10:15	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
11:15	Rome (RJ)
21:15	Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:30	Cairo (MS)
09:30	Adan (Y)
10:15	Khartoum (SU)
10:15	Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
10:30	Istanbul (TK)
10:30	Paris, Beirut (AF)
10:30	Vienna, Larnaca (ES)
10:30	Dubai, Damascus (EM)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:15	Beirut (RJ)
06:20	London (RJ)
06:30	Rome (RJ)
11:15	Toronto Montreal (RJ)
12:10	London (RJ)
12:15	Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15	Rome (RJ)
12:45	Cairo (RJ)
20:30	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:30	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:30	Rome (RJ)
21:00	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:35	Dhahran (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:15	Beirut (ME)

فَكَذَابَ الْأَصْلَ

Regent offers encouragement to scientists

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Regent, said Sunday that he encourages scientists to participate in government decision-making and the development of policies in fields of specialisation.

He said that the Regent at a meeting held at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) on Sunday, which was attended by representatives of the various scientific centres affiliated to the Council for Science and Technology (CST), Prince Hassan encouraged them to participate in government decision-making and the development of policies in fields of specialisation.

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Department issues tax

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department issued a statement Sunday urging all employees to comply with Article 57 of the Tax Law of 1985.

The statement said that the department has received information that some employees are not paying their taxes on time.

The department said that it will take legal action against those who do not pay their taxes on time.

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Dairy farmers ask for government support

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of dairy farmers and owners of dairy plants in Amman called on the House of Representatives to discuss the problem of dairy farming.

The group said that they are facing many difficulties, including the high cost of feed and the low price of milk.

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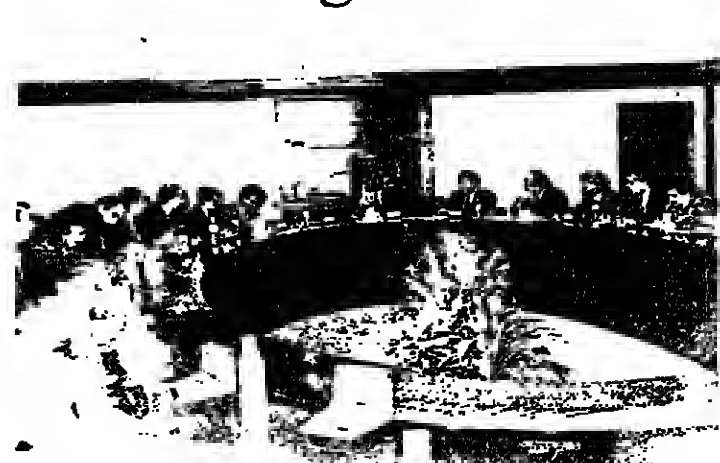
The group said that they are facing many difficulties, including the high cost of feed and the low price of milk.

Emergency teams at the ready in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality has finalised its plan to deal with emergencies in the present winter.

The municipality said that it has established emergency teams to deal with emergencies in the present winter.

The municipality said that it has established emergency teams to deal with emergencies in the present winter.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan addresses scientists at the Royal Scientific Society on Sunday (Petra photo)

their activities in 1992 and the various scientific research programmes under way.

The Regent called for an expansion of research activities and the creation of an opportune climate for better and more efficient utilisation of the scientists' endeavours in the process of the

transfer of modern technology to Jordan.

In underlining the need to make projects more acceptable, the Regent said that all schemes should be well prepared and based on scientific data taking into consideration three important concepts, management of

human resources, management of natural resources and pan-Arab security.

Only projects that are well studied and based on scientific data can convince policy-makers and financiers to back them, said the Prince. Referring to the council's coming activities, the Regent said that the council should embark from now to prepare for a scientific week to be held in the coming summer with the participation of various scientific centres in the country. The coming function, he said, should not involve just directors but also heads of sections so that discussion can take place at the financial and research level.

The Regent also urged the council and all scientific centres to maintain strong contact with foreign experts and research organisations so that they may benefit from them in the transfer of modern technology to Jordan. Furthermore, the Prince underlined the importance of the media which, he said, can convey and promote scientific projects to the people at the national level.

Government bows to farmers' pressure

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Governor of Balqa region Sunday denied that the landslides in the Khayf area blamed for devastating farmlands in the Jordan Valley, were caused by releasing water from the King Talal Dam.

Governor Eid Qatameh said that the landslides were natural disasters and related to the geological structure rather than the dam.

Farmers earlier reported that approximately 10,000 dunums of land owned by 30 families were either lost or rendered useless due to the huge flooding that occurred when the King Talal Dam was opened in last winter to allow surplus water out.

Speaking prior to a visit to the

area by a government appointed committee entrusted with examining the area, Mr. Qatameh said that the committee which visited the region Saturday is currently studying the question of "fixing the soil" to halt further erosions. He said that homes in the affected regions are no longer in danger of collapse.

Mr. Qatameh noted that the committee has now presented a report to the concerned authorities though, he said, landslides are not confined in Jordan to the Khayf area.

The committee members who visited the region comprise representatives of the ministries of public works and social develop-

ment as well as the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and the Balqa governor. Although he admitted that the landslides caused extensive damage to the farmlands in the area, Mr. Qatameh said that the local farmers cannot make use of their lands in the short term as a result of the erosion of the soil.

Farmers last week told the Jordan Times that they had repeatedly sought government compensation for their losses but their efforts were in vain and they were appealing to His Majesty King Hussein for help. The farmers said that the average loss of land was estimated between JD 12,000 and JD 15,000.

Jordan offers Sudan help in social services

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Works and Housing Minister Saad Hayel Surour Sunday voiced Jordan's readiness to help Sudan in the field of social services.

In a meeting with Sudanese Minister of Construction and Public Works Othman Abdul Qader and an accompanying delegation, Mr. Surour said the Jordanian government will do its utmost to help Sudan within the framework of the strong relations between the two Arab countries.

The two ministers reviewed at the meeting Jordanian-Sudanese relations in the fields of public works, housing and construction and means of enhancing them. They also discussed cooperation in urban development fields and exchanging expertise.

Mr. Abdul Qader briefed Mr. Surour on the duties of the Sudanese ministry of construction

and public works and the technical problems impeding its work, and he called for exchanging expertise between the two countries.

The visiting minister expressed Sudan's interest in benefiting from Jordan's experience in road construction.

He said that Sudan has now achieved substantial progress in the field of agricultural development. The country has succeeded in planting large areas with cereals and other crops, which makes it imperative to open new roads and expand existing road network to serve the various agricultural areas and districts in the country, he said.

He also lauded the high level of performance attained by the Jordanian ministry in construction and housing.

On his part, Mr. Surour reviewed the development in the

work of his ministry's institutions and departments. He said the ministry was keen to offer the best services to citizens everywhere in the Kingdom despite Jordan's limited resources.

He stressed that all of the ministry's achievements were accomplished by qualified Jordanian teams which have also helped other Arab countries in developing their public services. The ministry has adopted a training programme for newly-graduated engineers to supply them with experience and skills needed in their work, Mr. Surour said, adding that this programme falls within the ministry's policy aiming to enhance the efficiency of Jordanian manpower.

The meeting was attended by Ministry Secretary General Rashdan Al Rashdan and several ministry officials.

JD 25 m electrification deal signed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Sunday took the first practical step towards the implementation of a JD 25 million project for the electrification of 450 villages and settlements in rural Jordan by signing deals to acquire loans for the project.

The Jordan Islamic Bank (JIB) will provide JD 6 million while the Social Security Corporation (SSC) will offer JD 2 million towards the first phase of the scheme to be implemented in the coming year.

Project director Samih Ujeilat said in a statement following the signing of the agreement at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources that 1993 will see 200 Jordanian villages electrified under the supervision of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) working with local contractors.

The total cost of the first phase of the project, he said, is expected to cost JD 11.5 million. In 1994, another 200 villages will be electrified at a total cost of JD 8.5 million, Mr. Ujeilat pointed out.

In March this year, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources said it was drawing up plans for the electrification of 306 million villages making up to 10 per cent of the total area of rural



Jordan Electricity Authority Director and the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources sign the JD 25m deal with Jordan Islamic Bank officials

and badia regions in the Kingdom. But the ministry said later that the number of villages to be covered by the project, has now been increased to become 450.

The Council of Ministers in March this year approved the collection of one fils on every kilowatt of electricity consumed by subscribers and they decided to use the funds collected to finance the project. According to Mr. Ujeilat, the one fils a kilo-

watt collection will provide up to JD 3.5 million annually.

The electrification project, he said, entails the laying of more than 2,000 kilometres of high voltage and low voltage cables, the installation of 500 transformer stations plus other civil works. He said that the JEA will next year borrow JD 6 million from local organisations to finance the remaining parts of the project.

Nearly 100,000 inhabitants in rural regions will benefit from this project while the rate of beneficiaries of electric power in Jordan will rise from 98 per cent to 100 per cent, according to Mr. Ujeilat.

Noting that this project was also stimulating the national economy, Mr. Ujeilat said that the JEA has already awarded a JD 5.5 million tender to a local industrial company to provide wires, cables, poles and other requirements for the project. He said that this tender accounts for nearly 50 per cent of the total tender for the whole project.

Local firms will benefit from this scheme since it will create up to 500 jobs annually, Mr. Ujeilat said. Referring to the benefits to the rural regions, he said that electric power is vital for agriculture, housing, education and industrial projects.

He said that the scheme involves the efforts of the JEA, the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) and the Irbid District Electricity Company (IDEC). He also said that priority will be given to the population settlements which are closer to the power grid.

Amman stock exchange records peak turnover

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Turnover on Jordan's stock market is estimated at a record \$1.29 billion in 1992 reflecting better than expected economic performance, Umayya Toukan, its director, said on Sunday.

"We will reach a record in the market's history of JD 880 million in traded value of shares this year compared to JD 303 million in 1991," he told Reuters in an interview.

"I can say it's been a very good year, given the pessimism that existed about the economy after the Gulf war," he added.

Dr. Toukan said the 109 companies listed in the stock market made total profits of over JD 100 million in 1992 with industrial shares, the market's most active sector, accounting for JD 46 million.

Nearly 341 million shares changed hands in 1992 up to the last week of the year against 156 million in the previous year.

Dr. Toukan attributed the high activity to increased confidence in the economy following IMF agreed economic reforms, hopes for Middle East peace, and extra liquidity pumped into the market by over 250,000 Jordanians returning mainly from Kuwait because of the Gulf crisis.

"It's no wonder given the aver-



Amman Stock Exchange: Business was good in 1992 as investors felt Jordan's economy was on the right track

age yields of around 20 to 30 per cent on shares this year and a pool of savings from Gulf returns with few outlets to chase," he said.

"As it turned out the return was very competitive relative to other alternatives."

He said an end-of-year correction reflected heavy selling by banks seeking to improve balance sheets and position-squaring by

institutional investors at the close of the financial year.

November's turnover was a record JD 126.8 million and Dr. Toukan said he believed the upward trend would continue.

"I expect a pickup in trading starting January because basically the same factors are still with us and as long as they are there I don't see why demand should not stay high in 1993."

But the market's outlook for 1993 continues to hinge on progress in the Arab-Israeli peace talks and the lifting of U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Many Jordanian companies have been devastated by the measures which have cut off their lucrative links with Iraq, their former main trading partner.

Lend me your ear, pleads audiologist

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ninety per cent of hearing loss amongst infants in Jordan goes undetected, according to audiologist Manal Hamzeh. Once at school, however, clues can be picked up. Children with hearing difficulties appear to daydream in class, ask for questions to be repeated several times, and they may have reading and speech impediments, she argues.

In order to help educationalists in normal schools to identify children with a mild to moderate hearing problems at an early stage, Ms. Hamzeh has compiled an Educational Audiological Review (E.A.R.).

"Children with mild to moderate hearing loss are difficult to detect, and larger in number to those with severe loss," she told the Jordan Times. She added that school children suffering from a mild hearing loss have their academic and linguistic development hindered.

It is easy to spot those with severe hearing loss since they display obvious signs of weak hearing," she said, it is those with the mild predicament that "fall through the educational cracks."

The Review aims at identifying such children, diagnosing them, training educationalists to meet the needs of these children.

Identification of the problem involves questionnaires on student behaviour in the classroom. For instance, queries are made about the student's standard compared with the rest of the class, reading level, attention span, and comprehension. Because identification deals with lecture and paper work, it is cost effective. Expenses start running high when actual diagnostic service is given and hearing aids have to be purchased. Ms. Hamzeh hopes that this service will be incorporated into a student's regular school health insurance.

Ms. Hamzeh argues that there are two major reasons for hearing loss in Jordan: One is intermar-

riage, which causes permanent loss in the sensory areas of the auditory system, the other is middle ear infections which cause mild and then moderate hearing loss. These are temporary and can be diagnosed at an early stage, but if these infections are left untreated permanent hearing loss results.

Another problem is that not all parents accept the fact that they have a child with a hearing loss. Two years ago, Ms. Hamzeh carried out tests on 150 children from the Amman National School. She found that 50 students suffered from one form of hearing impairment. Responsibility for treatment lay with parents and doctors, but Ms. Hamzeh found parents to be uncooperative and the study could not be carried out further. For this reason the Review aims at educating parents on how best to deal with such difficulties and how to get the required services.

Responsibility lies on the teacher first and foremost, and then the parents in providing recommended therapy. Ms. Hamzeh said. She has sent out the Review to local schools and has begun her lecturing campaign.

She has once again approached the Amman National School and said she has been very encouraged by the results: "The Amman National School has five of its students wearing hearing aids as well as an FM hearing device in the class," she said.

Integration in society for these children depends on how early his or her hearing problem has been diagnosed and the degree of the loss, she explained. The later this problem is identified the more difficult it is for a child to integrate into "the hearing world" since linguistic handicaps also accompany this loss, she said.

As head of the Specialised Audiology Centre, Ms. Hamzeh pointed out that each child should be treated as an individual. She stressed that the dire need for mild hearing identification since in most centres in Jordan severe hearing loss only is recorded.

Arab human rights group makes appeal

On December 18, 1992, the Israeli authorities unjustly deported 415 Palestinians from their home land. This act is a serious violation of Palestinian human rights. It also displays Israeli indifference to the International law represented in the Security Council resolutions which affirm the illegality of the expulsion whatever the motives. This act is also a grave breach of the international conventions and human rights particularly the Geneva conventions.

We call on the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Boutros Ghali, to ask the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva convention to convene to discuss the means and measures that could be taken to stop these repeated violations of Palestinian rights by the Israeli government.

We also ask the Security Council and the United Nations to take strict measures for ensuring the implementation of the United Nations Resolution 799 which guarantees the safe return of the deportees to their homeland and families.

The deportees have been thrown in a Lebanese territory occupied by Israel, their lives in serious danger as a result of continued firing and harsh weather conditions.

We call on you to shoulder your human responsibilities. If you wish to do something for the deportees please cut out this appeal and send a signed copy to:

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From: Arab Organisation For Human Rights

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Sculpture exhibition by Mona Saudi at At Balka Art Gallery in Al Fuhais.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artist Kamal Al Jawhari at Housing Bank Complex Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of arts by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Judi and Shawkat Al Alosi, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Rida Tarazi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

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Jordan Times

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Editorial and advertising offices:

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Weekly Political Pulse

Ban of political parties — treading on unsteady ground

The decision to license or ban any political party cannot be taken lightly. Even though the law on political parties gives the minister of interior the right to license or ban political parties, there is every reason to expect a Cabinet deliberation on this issue before the minister of interior may pronounce himself on the application for establishing political parties. After all, in the final analysis, allowing the formation of any political party is a government verdict and not the sole prerogative of one cabinet minister.

This is point number one. Point number two is the issue of granting or not licence to a political party depending on mere technical details, such as the names of the applying political party. One would have thought that such problems can be easily rectified by a formal request that the disputed names be changed in order to comply with the letter of the law, if not with its spirit. What should concern Jordanians, however, is the substance of the matter and not the mere formalities.

With regard to the rejection of the applications of the Jordanian Communist Party and the Baath Arab Socialist Party for registration, there is obviously room for honest differences between even well-intentioned Jordanians, be they private or public office-holders. If one takes, for example, the Baath Arab Socialist Party, one doubts that the problem with its application

lied in the fact that it preaches socialism per se. After all, neither the Constitution of the country nor the law on political parties disavow all elements of socialism as such. There is hardly a system of government in these contemporary times that lacks some degree of socialism.

In Islam, the overriding code of conduct of the Kingdom, there are clearly some elements of socialism which bestow public ownership on such resources as water, minerals and oil for example. Social security is also well enshrined in the Muslim faith. So, the problem is not there. The real issue here is whether the Baath Arab Socialist Party is an extension of a non-Jordanian party. The country has clearly spoken on this subject and said its word on it when it adopted the National Charter and the law on political parties and forbade any political party which is not strictly Jordanian. Had the forefathers of the Charter and the law, who articulated and legislated into law the new law on political parties, wanted to accept pan-Arab parties, they would have done so. Whatever is the merit or demerit of rejecting pan-Arab political parties, the time and place of debating that issue should have been at the National Conference, which articulated and adopted the National Charter, and not now. The

country can always review its past national judgements. This exercise is done, there is no room to inject new criticism into Jordanian legislations, that are not there already.

The case of the Jordanian Communist Party poses a problem since the government's decision to reject its application is based on Article 2 of the Constitution, that stipulates that the country is an Islamic country and therefore, by implication, rules out the communist ideology altogether. This is essentially a juridical matter, and not only a political issue whether an Islamic country can outlaw anything which is not Islamic, then there could be grounds for outlawing a party that uses a "Christian" title like those to western National Charter.

There are no easy answers to such vexing issues and the executive branch must tread the path of interpret broad policy issues with considerable care. The case for the Communist Party could be stronger if pursued along grounds that were invoked to ban the Baath Arab Socialist

Black day for the press

DEC. 27, 1992 will go down in Jordanian journalists' record books as the day on which their cause and that of the freedom of expression took a heavy blow. The press and publications law that was passed by Parliament yesterday is not only an obstacle to democracy and progress in an otherwise budding and promising democratisation process. Its passage is also a sign that the eleventh Parliament has not come of age even after three years in session.

Of all the unacceptable articles in the draft law the one that forces journalists to reveal their sources of information in a court of law stands out as the most critical and dangerous. Unless amended by the Upper House or rejected by His Majesty the King Article 5 will contravene the spirit and letter of our democratic march and retard the cause of the profession for a long time to come. Its application would also dangerously defeat the very purpose which it supposedly was formed to serve. It goes without saying that without protecting the sources of critically needed information, truth will never see the light of day.

It is in fact no consolation that the revelation of the names of sources would be compulsory only in a court of law. The fact that sources of information risk being exposed in any forum would simply erase their willingness to blow the whistle on any grave errors or misjudgements that may have been committed or passed. The government can always rebut any information revealed by the mass media if it feels that it is inaccurate. Furthermore, the government does not need to know the source to perform such a necessary task.

It is conceded that not all information or data received from confidential sources are absolutely correct. But as long as the concerned authorities have an opportunity to deny the accuracy of any information obtained from sources that prefer to remain anonymous, then there would be very little damage if the secrecy of the source is to be maintained.

Obviously, we speak in this context in relative terms. There is always a risk that some people would deliberately want to confuse the public or to spread false rumours, something that could undermine state security and stability. In this sense, however, it is basically the function and duty of reporters and editors to verify the information received from any source, be it secret or otherwise.

These are the dictates of the profession after all. On balance, then, the risk of stifling relevant information by keeping Article 5 in the country's law books outweighs any benefit that may accrue from retaining it as is.

The fact that Parliament seemed for a moment ready to reexamine the draft law was a hopeful sign. Now that even that small effort was not exerted, for whatever legal reason or otherwise, House has passed up an opportunity to assert itself as an essential fighting force for democracy and progress in Jordan. For the blunder that the House has committed, it deserves no thanks.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'i daily Sunday ridiculed Pekin's attitude with regard to arms supplies to Taiwan noting that the Chinese leaders have raised the hue and cry over the French shipment but covered and kept silent with regard to the American deal with Taiwan, but protested strongly against Paris, over a similar deal, because some Chinese leaders believe they need the United States and should not protest its actions, added the daily. It said that, in fact, it is the United States which is in dire need of China as a market for American products and not vice versa and therefore the Chinese should be more firm against American policies and its sale of war planes to Taiwan. We are not defending France, which had aligned itself behind the United States in its war on the Arabs, but we are making a point about China's attitude and feel that Peking should behave like a superpower at the Security Council and in world affairs, said the daily. It is regrettable, added the paper, to see China with its more than one billion inhabitants being transformed into a feeble power under the so-called U.S.-created new world order. China, said the paper, should not be afraid of angering the United States, which needs the Chinese markets, and ought to prove its stand as a superpower and an industrial nation, capable of influencing world affairs.

A COLUMNIST in AL RA'i daily Sunday congratulated the Islamic National Front Party for acquiring legal authorisation to function in Jordan, but cautioned this party against being affiliated to the international Muslim Brotherhood organisation which is based abroad. The Islamic National Front Party is more or less the political face of the Islamic movement in Jordan and is striving to win the support of 95 per cent of the Muslim population in Jordan in the coming parliamentary elections, said Fahd Al Faneh. The writer said that this party also seeks to swallow up the Parliament seats which are now filled by Christian deputies representing the Christian minority in Jordan. He said that the leaders of this party consider themselves above criticism from any writer and consider any opposing view as a hostile action directed against Islam and the Muslims. He cited a statement by the party's Secretary General Ishaq Al Farhan in which he said that during his mandate as minister of education he made sure that he left behind no enemy to the Islamic movement among the ministry staff, which means that he did some purging in order to ensure that goal. The writer said that the Islamic Front Party should clear its image by embracing political pluralism and the Jordanian Constitution and by renouncing violence under any circumstances. He said that the party should also stop regarding women and Christians as second-class citizens, and prove that it is financially, politically and administratively independent from the Muslim Brotherhood operating abroad.

Miscalculation, then intransigence

By Clovis Maksoud

THE CONFIRMATION by the Israeli Supreme Court of the deportation of more than 400 Palestinians removes the last chance for the resumption of the peace process as initiated by the U.S. What started at the Madrid Conference has ended at a hilltop in occupied South Lebanon.

Does this mean that hopes for peace have been shattered? I do not think so, but in order to get the process started again, the parties involved must replace the mechanism that has managed the peace process for more than a year with a more visible and active U.N. presence. The envisaged outcome of the peace process and the terms of reference also have to be made clearer and more precise.

During the Shamir regime, the vagueness of these terms provided Israel with a way to evade any concrete results. When Yitzhak Rabin took power, some changes were anticipated. The atmosphere in the talks indeed became more palatable and acquired a semblance of "reasonableness." But the absence of an envisaged outcome, let alone a concrete one, enabled Israel to divest the talks of any chance of consequentiality. The discourse merely sounded more sensible.

Meanwhile, Israel pursued its time-buying strategy and repackaged its objectives — annexation of Jerusalem and continued occupation without the stigma of calling it that — which have been at the root of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Arabs in general, and the Palestinians in particular, witnessed the benefits reaped by Israel from its change of tone and style — including \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees and a hands-off American attitude towards the

talks. Israel's continued permissive policy towards settlements and its stiffening posture on the question of withdrawal from the Golan Heights and South Lebanon deepened the sense of frustration among Palestinians and reinforced a growing conviction that the "peace process" was futile. As Israel gained more international approval and as the Arab governments, deferring to Washington, failed to press Israel on the Palestinians' behalf, the Palestinian community sought a more activist stance.

It was here that Muslim Hamas sought to prescribe its own confrontational approach not in tandem with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), but as an alternative to the PLO. While this inter-Palestinian debate took place, Rabin's government took the fatal step of deporting the 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon.

Israel, in its habitual misreading of Palestinian reaction, believed that the debate could bring about a permanent split, a total collapse of Palestinian unity. But the deportation, guided by wish-

ful thinking rather than objective analysis, brought about unity; it did not deepen the split, as Israel mistakenly believed it would.

Mr. Rabin additionally miscalculated Lebanon's resolve not to remain Israel's dumping ground. And he underestimated the outrage of the international community, as demonstrated by the speedy adoption of a condemnation, Resolution 799, by the U.N. Security Council.

In seeking to make Lebanon "responsible" for the fate of the deported, Israel again miscalcu-

lated the extent of agreement between the Palestinian position and that of Lebanon, which insists on preventing this deportation from becoming a pattern or the embryo of a new refugee camp.

Israel's calculations were so flawed that its action led to a convergence of the PLO and Hamas in a manner that renders Palestinian moderates more innovative and Hamas' radicals more deferential to collective decision-making in the Palestinian struggle.

This convergence is likely to have a far-reaching impact, triggering similar moves by other Arab states. It is banking on a tolerance of its policies. Arab regimes that are ing their own Islamic movements. This would rate if Arab nationalists, mic fundamentalists bo and gradually abandon and at times contrive cions.

It seems that Israel's contempt to the United Nations Security Council resolution has all previous conduct. Yet Israel knows that if Nations of today is diffi that of earlier years, resolutions are being seriously. Non-compliance sustained defiance can quickly to sanctions. Israel believes that a administration would be to join in a preceptious tion, and hence it can procrastinating. This true, or it may be just fatal Israeli miscalculation.

If it is to remain a global mainstream and chance to enter a ne process, Israel must ab UN Security Council a forthwith. It must recede Lebanon can no longer to being an unwilling ac to Israel's defiance of resolution.

Clovis Maksoud, former advisor of the Arab League, United States and the Nations, is director of the for the Study of the Glo at the American Univ Washington. The Artic printed from the Los Times.



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Opting out of the American dream: A dilemma for Muslim Americans

By Barbara Nimri Aziz

NEW YORK — The movie Malcolm X, opening across the country to wide acclaim, gives the U.S. public its first cinematic portrait of a Muslim. But it may not count as a Muslim experience, especially for Arab-Americans, face on a daily basis, and is a reason some are leaving the U.S.

Mahmoud and Miriam gave up their jobs this month; the end of the year, when the complete the semester the family will leave for Yemen. In Chicago a few months later, Najat sold her furnishings to cancel her health insurance. Her four children, completing their school year, left with her in the West Bank. This Palestinian mother, retained her Israeli card and built a new house so she can reside in her hometown.

Najat's husband, while remains in the U.S. will support the family from his other-in-law's store, Ahmed, a successful scholar in Massachusetts, in the U.S. for twenty years, will depart for Jerusalem soon as his wife sells her house. And Sousa, already in Syria, is trying to contact her husband to rejoin her.

In the past two years, American families of Arab origin (most Muslim) have become a small but swelling stream of migration out of the country they regarded as hard to get to.

"Many many are going back," Sheikh Hassan, head of a Brooklyn mosque. Worshippers

from his centre are of South Asian and Arab origin. He notes that out-migration is greater to the Middle East.

Why would these new Americans want to live in unstable economies, under undemocratic governments where rising fundamentalism creates more uncertainties? In the case of Palestinians, moreover, they will return to military occupation.

Does the economic recession threaten to put them out of work here? Are these people illegal migrants, sought out by the U.S. Immigration Service? Do recent preferred-class immigrants take priority in the visa line and put citizenship beyond the reach of these Muslim migrants?

"It's because of my children," explains Mahmoud. "They will be lost to me and my culture if we remain. What do we live for? Our children. But after they reach 10, we feel we lost them. They no longer hold our values. Is it worth it?"

The new York businessman and his wife, with an M.A. in mathematics, are comfortable by U.S. standards. Miriam is a licensed high school teacher with an annual salary of \$40,000 and health insurance for the family; Mahmoud earns as much again. Living in a good Brooklyn neighbourhood, free of crime, with adequate public schools, they pay \$600 a month for an apartment they are proud of. They support Mahmoud's mother living in Yemen and his young brother still in school there.

"Yes, we are alright economically," agrees Mahmoud. "We

also work very hard." Explaining their exodus, the 45-year-old immigrant comes back to his children. "Miriam and I are at work all day. We rush from here to there. My oldest is 10, the baby is four. Life is passing us by and soon, when our children are older, we will share less and less with them. They belong to the school, to TV, to neighbourhood children. We can't stop them from those influences which we feel are not all good."

What troubles these Arab parents is the process by which, in teenage years, children become "too Americanised." They use rough language learned in the street; they no longer want to speak Arabic; they lose respect for their parents. Then Muslim families like that of Mahmoud and Miriam saw their children experience a deep pain two years ago as a result of media-generated hostility towards Iraq which spread to all Arabs and to Muslims in general. In his Brooklyn classroom, children taunted Mahmoud's son with jeers of "Saddam Hussein, Saddam Hussein" during the 1990-91 crisis.

"My son, seeing all this anger at Arab people asked me 'Baba, are we that bad?'" Arab American children who tried to counter public hostility towards Iraq (often expressed by overzealous teachers), and other children's jeers, were remorselessly attacked. A 13-year-old girl from Yemen who wears the Islamic headscarf was shouted at by a neighbour, a girl her own age: "You don't belong here. Go away." Some young people reject their identity. "Arab culture

stinks!" said Ahmed's 4-year-old after returning from his American mother's house after a custody visit. The father is stunned. His 4-year-old knows more about Thanksgiving than Ramadan, the Muslim holy month, normally a joyous time for children in Arab culture.

Dr. Nuha Abudabbah, director of Naim Foundation for Social Health Care in Washington reports numerous cases of Arab Americans families seeking help during this distressing period. On the question of emigration back to the homeland, Dr. Abudabbah says she doesn't see clients who intend to emigrate. "Those who come to us are trying to overcome difficulties: they want to stay in the U.S.; that's why they seek help. To find out about those leaving," she said. "You have to go to a travel agency."

That line of investigation does indicate a growing flow towards the homelands. Bader, from Cairo, runs a New York agency catering to Arab travellers. Here for 15 years, married to an American, he affirms his love for America: "We got a lot from this country, there is nowhere like it. True, we face discrimination as Muslims but we are coping with this." Of his clients, he observes "Two kinds: only a few return for good, or they think they are: most are going to the Middle East for visits of a month or two — to maintain family ties, and to expose the children to the Arab culture in a supportive environment, to give their children a positive sense of their Arab identity, which in the U.S. is

weak and seems threatened." Dr. Nabil Marshood, professor at Hudson County Community College, confirms the importance of these visits to parents and to their children. A Muslim teacher in a private school notes, "At least when children are in the home-

land, they have a clear sense and confidence of who they are. In the U.S., they feel conflict and sometimes shame."

Arab people prefer to arrange marriages within the community for their children. Nervous about liberal American values prevalent

in schools, they become concerned about their teenage daughters and send them to complete high school in Cairo or the West Bank and Gaza under grandparents' supervision. A newly opened English language school in the West Bank, using an

American curriculum, doubled its enrollment in the past year. Most of its pupils are American-born Palestinians. A parent in the West Bank notes, "At first my daughter resisted moving here, now she has many friends and she is doing well. We intend to stay."

Independents quit Islamic front

(Continued from page 1)

included Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Abdul Razzaq Bader, Minister of Justice Yousef Haddad, lawyer Zuhair Abul-Hadi, former Minister of Trade and Industry Hamdi Tabaa and Izzat al-Najjar. The names of Sunday's signatories were mostly of representatives of Amman districts but they were still under way to contact other independents in other districts of the Kingdom, according to independent sources.

The IAF held its elections according to a district division of Jordan in that of the constituencies for the national elections. Independents say they joined the IAF to receive assurances that they of the Brotherhood would be treated as individuals and not as a bloc. "But the elections for the IAF Council have affirmed the IAF's policy. In fact, the elections showed to all suspicion that the Brotherhood wanted this party only to represent them," read the letter of opinion made available to the Jordan Times.

The letter said that when IAF first being contemplated "the goal was to make the front the one which would encompass all who are committed to its objectives in their personal capacity and as a reflection of their previous stance." The Muslim Brotherhood took a step to accept this condition. It stated it and reiterated its commitment to it in more than one way," the letter said. "We wanted to believe these assurances despite the actions of some of the main personalities of the Brotherhood during the preparatory period despite the fact that some inde-

pendents who were part of the preparatory committee did not stay," it said. "The percentage of non-Brothers which you allowed to win members in the council is small and cannot affect any decision," the letter added.

"Since the movement did not uphold its pledge to stick to the great goal of uniting the Islamic efforts in this country, and since its practices have come out in contradiction to its statements, this party will not be able to recruit new elements and in fact it will not even be able to keep its non-Brother members because they will feel as if they are rowing in a strange sea and are only vehicles to reach certain objectives," the strongly-worded letter concluded.

Since the announcement of the results late Friday evening, a reaction from the independents was expected although many Brotherhood members did not expect them to withdraw from the front before the elections for the head of the council, the 17-member executive committee and for the post of the president of the IAF and his two deputies were concluded sometimes this month.

Moderates among the Brothers said that a compromise could have been reached between them and the independents to balance Friday's results. Observers do not rule out the possibility of using the resignation as a pressure tactic to strengthen the hand of the independents in any negotiations over percentages.

Although no compromise was reached in Sunday's meeting, observers and analysts believe that the doors for a compromise formula are not yet closed and that further contacts could result in a strong showing for the independents on the 17-member executive committee and perhaps they will secure the post of deputy president of the IAF.

Israel rules out reversing expulsions

(Continued from page 1)

"The independent daily said, the men, were never charged with time. The army had only a few hours to make the 415, the newspaper reported the source as saying. In his words, there were some names in the list of names passed to Israeli army, and so a few residents of the Gaza Strip were mistakenly expelled in place of their names who had similar family names," the source said.

The newspaper reported its sources that the Palestinians wanted to appeal the expulsion to any army. The source said that the expelled would be allowed back to the newspaper said. It was a source estimated at least 100 of those expelled could be returned.

The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Sunday held Israel responsible for deteriorating conditions in the Gaza Strip. The OIC said the United States and the two sponsors of the

Middle East peace conference — to see that they return safely to their homes.

"The government of Israel is directly and solely responsible for the tragic living conditions faced by the deportees now," OIC Secretary-General Hamed Al Gabid said in a statement.

This 51-member OIC serves as a political umbrella for the world estimated one billion Muslims. Mr. Gabid issued the statement following a meeting earlier in the day with the consul-general of the permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council accredited to Jeddah.

The statement said Mr. Gabid delivered them messages to convey to their heads of state concerning Israel's decision to expel the 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Mr. Gabid said: "This crime has dealt a serious blow to the peace process and has unmasked the real intentions of the Israeli government aimed at sabotaging the peace process."

Evictees get smuggled food

(Continued from page 1)

kilometres north of the camp, said there was no way to prevent smuggling across the chain of mountains overlooking the areas abutting Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone."

He said villagers passing through his checkpoint can transport supplies claiming they are for their personal use and the army has no reason to confiscate them.

Israel expelled the Palestinians Dec. 17.

Israel and Lebanon have barred the 415 from their territory and have refused to let international agencies send supplies.

Only journalists are officially allowed to visit the camp.

The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) is widely admired by most of the evictees for its guerrilla war on Israeli forces in the "security zone."

Troops search journalists' cars at the last Lebanese army checkpoint three kilometres north of the camp for food. They even confiscate newspapers to stop the Palestinians reading them.

But the small number of soldiers in the area cannot police all

the Bekaa Valley's rugged hills.

The Lebanese government stopped international agencies supplying the group last Monday, arguing they were Israel's responsibility and the Jewish state should take them back.

About 10 centimetres of snow covered their makeshift camp on Sunday. Despite the parcels of smuggled food, the Palestinians were clearly short of medicine, clothes and fuel.

Hizbollah uses mules to supply its fighters with ammunition and food in strongholds on the Iqlim Al Toufah ridge southeast of the southern Lebanese port of Sidon. It has sent hundreds of copies of its newspaper to the Palestinians in recent days.

Soldiers said they found a group of Palestinians in the village of Libbaya Friday night buying food after climbing across a deep ravine west of their camp. The soldiers ordered them back into their camp.

Some Palestinians welcomed the snow as a gift from God. "I haven't tasted clean water for three days," said Salim Salameh. "But now God who is taking care of us sent us this snow to quench our thirst."

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Courier, Seles reign; McEnroe ends on Davis Cup high

NEW YORK (AP) — Jim Courier, the quiet one, and Monica Seles, who silenced herself at the worst possible time, ruled tennis in 1992 while John McEnroe, the noisiest champion ever, bowed out as raucously and as he began.

McEnroe's singles career is over, as he says, he left his final act on the sport with an inspirational charge that brought the Davis Cup back to the United States.

The 33-year-old McEnroe also passed on to Andre Agassi the secrets of mastering Wimbledon's grass, lessons that paid off in Agassi's first Grand Slam title on a surface he once loathed because it seemed so ill-suited to his style.

Agassi's Wimbledon triumph, a five set survival in the final against Goran Ivanisevic, 37, was not only the tennis year's biggest surprise but perhaps its greatest match. Agassi had beaten two three-time champions, McEnroe and Boris Becker, in the semis and quarterfinals, then stood his ground against Ivanisevic's onslaught to become the first baseliner to win Wimbledon since Bjorn Borg.

McEnroe also imbued Pete Sampras, his Davis Cup doubles partner, with the fiery spirit that may be just what Sampras needs in 1993 to move up from No. 3 behind No. 1 Courier and No. 2 Stefan Edberg.

Courier's tenuous hold on the men's top spot — the No. 1 ranking bounced between him and U.S. Open winner Edberg all year before Courier put it away — contrasted with Seles' absolute reign over the women's game.

Courier captured the Australian and French Opens during a breathtaking rush through the first six months, and he became the first American to finish a year No. 1 in the ATP tour computer rankings since McEnroe in 1984.

Throughout the year, Courier

mused about "the great mystery of tennis," why he could be unbeatable one week and so vulnerable another, as he was on his favorite surface, clay, at the Olympics against Switzerland's Marc Rosset. Rosset, one of the game's most powerful servers, went on to win the gold and upset Courier again on the first day of the Davis Cup final.

Courier never solved the mystery, despite winning \$2.3 million this year. But when not many players figured out how to beat him, he wound up with two Grand Slam titles, three other tournament wins and a Davis Cup trophy after his clinching victory over Jakob Hlasek that he cherishes as much as anything he owns.

In one ludicrously lucrative non tour event, Michael Stich won almost as much as Courier did all year, \$2 million for beating Michael Chang in the Grand Slam Cup final Dec. 13 in Germany. Money aside, it was still a disappointing year for Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon champion who slid from No. 4 to No. 15 with only one tour victory.

McEnroe won his ninth Grand Slam doubles title at Wimbledon, this time with Stich, in an epic final. McEnroe and Stich finally prevailed 7-6, 7-6, 19-17, over Jan Ginepro and Richey Reneberg.

He showed moments of greatness at the Australian, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, but in the end just proved to himself and everyone else that he no longer can sustain the championship level throughout a two-week tournament. He had one last, flag waving moment of glory at the Davis Cup, yet even that pleasure was offset by the pain of his separation from his wife, Tatum O'Neal, just before the matches.

Jennifer Capriati seemed on



Jim Courier (left) and John McEnroe hold aloft the Davis Cup after beating Switzerland in the final

the verge of making her great leap in the women's tennis rankings after she won the gold in Barcelona with a three-set victory in the finals over Steffi Graf. It had been a fearful year for Capriati, a bitersweet 16, until that Olympics, and her tears resumed at the U.S. Open when she fell in the third round.

Martina Navratilova, on the other end of the age span, also shed plenty of tears after her loss in the second round at the U.S. Open. But she kept chugging along to reach the finals of the Virginia Slims Championship, where she played well in losing to Seles. The resilient Navratilova promises to play at least one more season in 1993 at age 36.

Seles tightened her grip on the women's No. 1 ranking she's held since March last year, winning the Australian, French and U.S. Opens again and just missing a sweep of the Grand Slam when

she lost to Graf in the Wimbledon final.

Yielding to the harassment of the British tabloids with their "gruntometers," and bothered by the complaints of a few players about the noises she makes hitting the ball, Seles chose the final to prove she could win quietly. It was an ill advised time to experiment with something as basic as breathing.

Seles went back to grunting at the U.S. Open and closed out the year by winning her third straight Virginia Slims Championship. She broke her own money record for a year with \$2.6 million in official prizes, and pushed her career total to nearly \$7 million before she turned 19 this month.

Of the 15 tournaments she played, she won 10, reached the finals in four and the quarterfinals in one, compiling a 70-5 match record.

French hero The Fellow chases Arkle legend

LONDON (R) — French chasing star The Fellow could become jump racing's biggest name since Arkle.

The great Desert Orchid, now retired, was missing from Kempton Park's holiday showpiece, the King George VI Steeplechase, for the first time in six years Saturday.

But the French have unearthed in The Fellow a star to re-ignite

the emotions of the grey's enormous fan club.

The fellow is taking over at Kempton where four-times winner Desert Orchid left off and could well beat that record.

The pride of France staged a supercharged run to seize the mid-season chasing championship for a second successive year — and he has the talent to win it again and again.

A week off his eighth birthday, it is possible The Fellow could compete in at least four more King Georges.

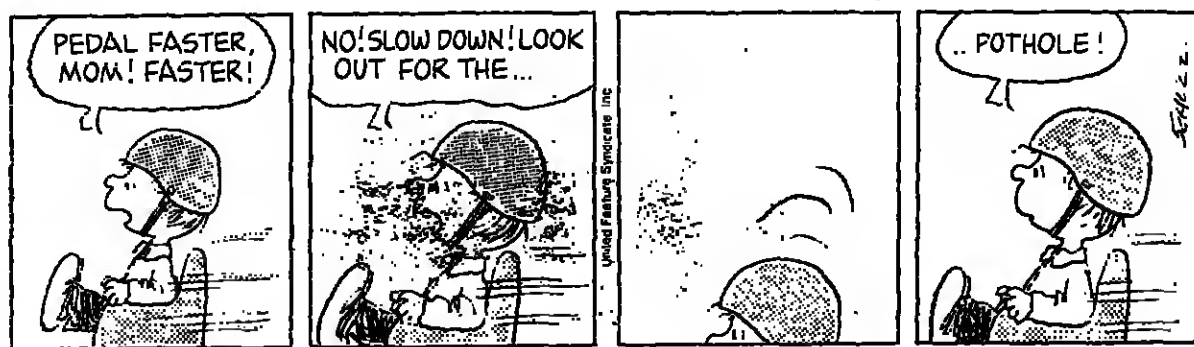
Now-confirmed Europe's leading three-mile chaser, The Fellow's objective is to make amends for his agonising short-head defeats in the two most recent Cheltenham gold cups. He is 9-4 favourite to make it third time

lucky.

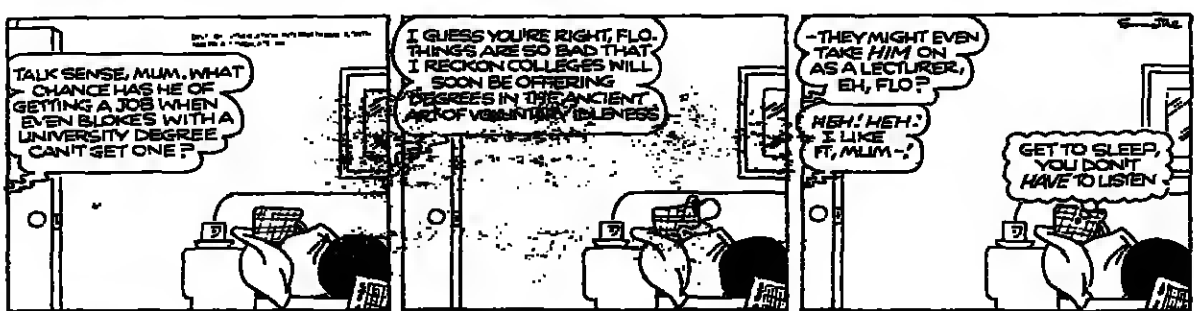
Traioer Francois Doumen thinks the horse is still improving and can yet conquer the tough Cheltenham uphill finish which has twice found him just wanting.

If the horse can add a couple of gold cups to his Kempton Laurels, comparisons with Arkle, the great Irish performer of the 1960s, can be ruled definitely in order.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Blackburn beat Leeds; Norwich keep lead

LONDON (R) — England striker Alan Shearer scored twice as Blackburn Rovers beat defending champions Leeds 3-1 to close the gap on Premier League leaders Norwich Saturday.

Norwich, held 0-0 by Tottenham after failing to find the net for the third match in a row, are just three points in front of Blackburn and five ahead of Manchester United and Aston Villa.

United stormed back from 3-0 down to draw 3-3 at Sheffield Wednesday while Villa's title challenge faltered with a 3-0 drubbing at Coventry.

Craig Hignett also scored twice as Middlesbrough came from behind to draw 2-2 at Everton. In Scotland, former England centre-forward Mark Hateley hit two as Glasgow Rangers won 3-1 at Dundee. Scotland striker Ally McCoist took his tally to 34 goals this season with the opener for the Premier Division leaders.

Striker David White was another two-goal man as Manchester City won 2-0 at home against Sheffield United.

Shearer took his season's tally to 22 with goals in the 45th and 58th minutes after Jason Wilcox had put Rovers ahead in the eighth minute and Scott Gary



Alan Shearer

draw at home to Southampton. Iain Dowie had put Saints ahead after only two minutes.

Ipswich stretched their unbeaten run to 12 games with a 0-0 draw at Arsenal, the pre-season championship favourites.

"That was a very, very defensive performance by Ipswich but we had the chances and didn't take advantage," said Arsenal mana-

BRITISH SOCCER

McAllister equalised half an hour later with a free kick for Leeds, the only side in the Premier League who have not won away.

Norwich, eight points ahead of the field December 5, had scored in every match before falling 1-0 at Manchester United two weeks ago. They lost 2-0 at home to Ipswich last Monday.

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said: "I'm disappointed we didn't win it because we set up a good chance after we'd pulled back to 3-3. "But there was some pulsating stuff and it was a terrific result. It shows the hallmark of a good team. We never stopped attacking."

Villa's defeat at Coventry had manager Ron Atkinson fuming. "That was definitely the worst performance from the team since I came to Villa Park," he said.

Chelsea remained in fifth place after a last gasp equaliser by Eddie Newton gave them a 1-1

draw at home to Southampton. Iain Dowie had put Saints ahead after only two minutes.

Ipswich stretched their unbeaten run to 12 games with a 0-0 draw at Arsenal, the pre-season championship favourites.

"That was a very, very defensive performance by Ipswich but we had the chances and didn't take advantage," said Arsenal mana-

ger George Graham after his side's sixth successive game without a win.

Relegation candidates Wimbledon lost 2-0 to Crystal Palace and manager Joe Kinnear said: "Heads may be to roll when I pick the team to play Chelsea Monday."

The Premier League matches between Oldham and Liverpool and Nottingham Forest and Queen's Park Rangers were postponed because of frozen pitches.

In the Scottish Premier Division, Rangers stayed four points clear of second-placed Aberdeen, who won 2-0 at Motherwell.

Rangers' victory avenged their only defeat of the season, a 4-3 loss at Dundee in August. The Glasgow side have since gone 28 games unbeaten in all competitions including the European Cup.

Third-placed Celtic lost 1-0 at home to Dundee United and are eight points adrift of Rangers.

Yachts go backwards in Sydney-Hobart race

SYDNEY (R) — New Zealand maxi ketch Endeavour retained a chance of breaking the 17-year Sydney-to-Hobart race record despite being becalmed during the early hours of Sunday.

After taking the lead overnight Endeavour was "parked" for three hours just north of Montague Island, 175 nautical miles south of Sydney, as the wind disappeared.

"Some of the boats said they were actually going backwards with the lack of wind," a race official said.

But by late Sunday a 14 knot northeasterly had hit the fleet and the 25-metre ketch covered 100 nautical miles in four hours to enter Bass Strait just before nightfall.

"They (Endeavour) have averaged 10 to 11.5 knots in the past four hours. If they keep it up they are on target for the race record," the official said.

Beckenbauer: Champions should have to qualify for World Cup

BONN (R) — Franz Beckenbauer, who led Germany to victory in the 1990 soccer World Cup, said Sunday the holders should no longer qualify automatically for the final series of the tournament.

Beckenbauer said automatic qualification made it more difficult for Bert Vogts, his successor as German team chief, to defend the title in the 1994 finals in the United States.

"The national eleven lack

games in the coming year in which they have to push the limits of their performance," he wrote in an article for the newspaper Welt Am Sonntag.

Beckenbauer said friendly matches were no substitute because they did not produce the same level of stress.

"When the (World Cup) tournament finally begins, the coach often does not know where the team stands as far as performance goes," he wrote.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NOTRE

♠ A Q

♣ 8

♦ K J 9 7 4

♥ A K J 4 3

WEST ♠ K 8 4 3 2

♣ 9

♦ A 10 5 3

♥ 8 5

EAST ♠ J 10 6

♣ A K 10 7 6 4

♦ 8 6

♥ 10 7

SOUTH ♠ 9 7 5

♣ 8 5 3 2

♦ Q 9 6 2

WEST North East South

Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass

Pass 3 ♠ Pass 3 NT

Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

All the techniques available to declarer also are in the defensive armory. That includes the holdup play. It is not unusual to find both sides employing that tactic during the play of a hand; but in the same suit?

three-level vulnerable, so South upgraded the queen in partner's suit and decided to hope that partner had a spade stopper by contracting for three no trump.

After the jack of hearts opening lead, East realized winning the heart and forcing out the queen would prove fruitless, since there was no entry to hand. So East simply encouraged with the seven of hearts.

Had South won this trick, the hand would have been assigned to the album of "lost opportunities."

When in with the ace of diamonds West would return a heart, and the defenders would cash enough heart tricks to defeat the game.

However, declarer realized the one chance for success lay in finding the ace of diamonds and the king of spades with West. Therefore, South allowed the jack of hearts to win the first trick. West continued with a heart, and East either had to take the king and ace immediately or risk going to bed with at least one of them. With East on lead even the spades were safe from attack, so declarer could force out the ace of diamonds at leisure and be sure of nine tricks.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY DECEMBER 28, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter, Founder

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Even though there are no aspects today, handle duties ahead of you in such a way that you please higher-ups immensely. Make this a memorable day and spend the evening reaching your batteries.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is the day when some changes in personalities about you is likely to be taking place so don't fight the present current, go along with it.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) It's a time to consider the best ways by which you can handle your usual routines in a more efficient manner and get at unfinished payments.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever you have in mind for pleasures requires a new approach to get the fullest possible enjoyment and then arrange to try them out tonight.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A comment by an influential outside person could cause some problems with a family which can be corrected in the evening.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A communication with an associate catches you off guard but don't get in a discussion during the daytime but tonight in can work out to everyone's satisfaction.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider the various aspect of present money interests during the day but don't do anything drastic

about them, tonight you see the right way to put them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A person of good judgment disagrees with an assessment have made about a joint work think it over, then come meeting of the minds.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You want to discuss confidential matter with an er but it would be jolly to especially since it goes well in the evening.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Some new friendships is apt to be at fingertips now so be ready to old ones and also make some acquaintances.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A desire for important new arrangements some should not keep you doing an unusually good job outside occupational work.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have to work for advancing your press interests but they need to be w on before you do something else about them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider all obligations you and how you feel you can organize them so then you get best of results with business sons' assistance.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"For a change of pace hug me with your lips and kiss me with your arms!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RINED

LEBIE

DEECA

RANLE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

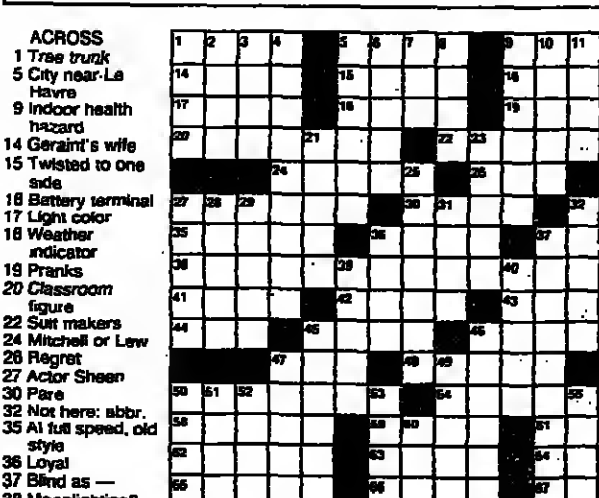
Print answer here:

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DICEO REARM MOROSE BEHEAD

Answer: These are usually broken while other people are holding them—RECORDS

THE Daily Crossword by Valentina Barnes



Across

1 True truck

5 City near La

9 Indes health

14 Gerant's wife

15 Twisted to one

16 Battery terminal

17 Light color

18 Weather

19 Indicator

20 Pranks

21 Classroom

22 Suit makers

24 Mitchell or Lew

26 Regret

27 Actor Sheen

30 Pire

32 Not here: abbr.

35 At full speed, old style

36 Loyal

37 Blind as—

38 Moonlighting?

41 Aquar

42 Fair attraction

43 Turning tool

44 Do office work

46 Thickets

47 "Cakes and ..."

48 Jumped

49 Extinct bird

50 "Pequod" or al.

54 House VIP

58 Slacken

59 Otter

61 Adam—

62 Mountain ridge

63 Close

64 Conduct

65 Walked to and fro

66 All in a—work

67 Sl.—a fire

DOWN

1 Vegetable

2 In the past

3 Calabazas

4 "Raz" (film)

5 Mountain hollow

6 Informal

7 Sea bird

8 Russ. verb

9 Concern of

10 Old-womanish

11 Extinct bird

12 "Pequod" or al.

13 Loch—

21 Hastening

22 "Tempest" agent

23 Pastry stain

27 In a rash way

28 "Whirlsima, Mon"

29 Teams

Economy

Another mismanagement scandal hits Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's national oil tanker firm is investigating suspected fraud within the company that local economists say could have cost it millions of dollars.

Al-Rai Al Aam newspaper said Saturday the state-owned Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) had set up a committee to investigate evidence that officials had for years privately chartered oil storage tanks and leased them to the firm at a profit.

It described the case as the emirate's "second disgraceful theft of public money, exploitation of influence and betrayal of national trust."

Public anger has already been aroused in Kuwait over the loss of billions of dollars of public money in its collapsed Spanish investment firm Torres.

One economist said losses through fraud might reach 10 million dollars (\$33 million), and could have involved other operations, such as the company's recent purchase of four tankers from Korea.

Jassem Al Saadoun, an adviser to parliament on economic affairs, said there were indications employees had profited from the tanker purchases.

"They used offshore companies to make double contracts. They bought the tankers and then sold them themselves to KOTC," Sheikh Saadoun said.

KOTC ordered four 280,000 tonne deadweight tankers from Korea in 1990 for \$85 million each. The first was delivered in December 1991 and the other three were delivered this year.

Kenyan economy awaits major surgery

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya's economy, once the envy of Africa, is in the casualty ward awaiting Tuesday's general elections and a surgeon with the courage for a major operation.

Deprived of lifeblood aid by impatient Western donors, the economy is shrinking and only major surgery can put it back on its feet, diplomats and economists say.

Like its outdated one-party political system, Kenya's economy is littered with anachronisms inherited from colonial rule such as the web of state control over agriculture and industry. The state accounts for half of salaried employment.

The outgoing government of President Daniel Arap Moi has promised donors and multilateral agencies it will bite the bullet of reform to win back balance of payments support worth a crucial \$40 million monthly.

"We've heard these promises before," said one Western envoy. "What we want to see now is action. These are critical times and require bold action."

Whoever wins Tuesday's presidential and parliamentary polls will take the reins of an economy going backward. Every key indicator is pointing the wrong way, except political.

"This country has so much going for it," said a corporate banker. "It's got resources and it's got people. What it doesn't have right now is the right kind of economic leadership."

The economy grew by a dismal two per cent in the year to April, half the birth rate and half the level of the previous few years. The figure, said the banker, was proof that the nineties are the "crunch decade."

A blend of coffee, tea, tourism and generous Western rewards for political stability insulated Kenya from much of the upheaval other African states suffered.

A bulwark against Marxism during the cold war, Kenya was rewarded by the West with aid and a blind eye to isolated instances of human rights abuse and the growing cancer of corruption.

The end of the cold war changed that.

One year ago, the West stopped propping up Kenyan economy which did not match up to its new criteria of "good governance, accountability and transparency" — World Bank slogans.

Many regard Kenya as a test case of Africa's ability to follow South-East Asia and Latin America down the road from dictatorship and decline to pluralism and prosperity.

Japan's aid to Jordan aims at achieving self-reliance

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Continued Japanese assistance to Jordan, mostly in the form of soft loans, aimed at helping the Kingdom achieve self-reliance and strengthen its economic infrastructure and the Jordanian performance in this context falls very much within the criterion set by Tokyo, according to the Japanese embassy in Amman.

Japan, which provided over \$1.3 billion to Jordan in various forms of assistance and long-term loans up to 1991, is the largest donor to the Kingdom, says the latest issue of "Japan Quarterly" issued by the embassy.

Japan Quarterly further answers the question: Why Japan is providing loans to Jordan at a time when the Kingdom already is under the pressure of foreign debts.

It says that the loans are aimed at contributing to "self-help efforts" and helping major development projects and notes that Japanese loans to Jordan have been mainly used to strengthen the Kingdom's economic infrastructure.

Since the Gulf crisis, the Japanese government granted Jordan \$700 million in loans on concessionary terms to help Amman offset the negative impact of the crisis. Japan Quarterly notes that the loans carry an annual interest of 2.9 per cent and are repayable in 25 years, with a grace period of seven years — which means over 50 per cent of the loan can be regarded as grant aid.

Similarly, commodity loans carry annual interest of one per cent and are repayable in 30 years with a grace period of 10 years; again 75 per cent of the amount could be considered as a grant aid, says the newsletter, adding that the credits are untied, meaning that Jordan could import goods from other countries that Japan at terms favourable to the Kingdom.

It sets out five principles governing Japan's economic cooperation with and assistance to foreign countries.

— Mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other;

— Environmental protection and national development;

— Non-utilisation of aid for military purposes;

— Shifting the focus away from arms build-up and development of weapons to internal economic and social development; and

— Encouragement to democratisation, introduction of a market-oriented economy and protection of basic human rights.

Japanese officials have explained that Jordan does not qualify for any large amounts in cash as assistance from Tokyo, which mostly applies the Toronto protocol in extending such help. The protocol entitles countries with less than \$800 per capita income to receive such aid and thus does not apply to Jordan.

However, Japanese assistance to Jordan is not limited to extending loans, the newsletter adds. Japanese aid and technical expertise have helped Jordan develop its telecommunications network, irrigation and agriculture, road construction and education.

In the field of development of human resources, it notes that Japanese experts contribute to training Jordanians in various techniques and Japanese volunteers come to Jordan to work with various communities as nurses, sports coaches, system engineers, instructors for the rehabilitation of the physically or mentally handicapped, music and painting teachers and instructors in dress-making, handicraft, artificial flower and doll-making.

About 30 such Japanese volunteers are now working in Amman, Jerash and Tafteh, and more are expected in Jordan soon to work in Madaba, Muta'h, Karak, Ma'an and Aqaba.

Over 310 Jordanians have undergone training in Japan in public administration, agriculture, forestry, industry, energy, public health, medicine and social welfare under programmes sponsored by the Japanese government and its various agencies.

In addition, Tokyo has also contributed equipment to various Jordanian organisations. These include Jordan Radio and Television, the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, municipalities, the Telecommunications Corporation, the Young Women's Muslim Association, the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund and the Royal Scientific Society, according to Japan Quarterly.

The Ministry of Education, the Jerash Festival and the Haya Arts Centre as well as various non-



Tunisia to make dinar convertible

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia plans to scrap foreign exchange controls and turn the dinar into a convertible currency by 1993, President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali said Sunday.

He said the move was designed to encourage foreign investment, boost exports and integrate the country's economy into the world market.

"We have decided to establish, during the coming year, the convertibility of the Tunisian dinar," Mr. Ben Ali said in a speech to parliament.

The announcement coincided with a visit of the head of the International Monetary Fund, Robert Camdessus, for talks with Tunisian officials.

Mr. Ben Ali said "regulations will be revised" so that "current foreign operations will be freed" in 1993.

Foreign investors who already benefit from exchange advantages, will not need government authorisation to transfer their capital and profits abroad.

Foreigners will be allowed to take a state in Tunisian banks without seeking government approval.

The new regulations will let Tunisian exporters invest abroad in operations related to their business. They will be permitted to keep in special foreign currency accounts a bigger part of their revenue in order to protect themselves against exchange risks, Mr. Ben Ali said.

He said Tunisia will eventually establish a foreign exchange market which will enable its banks to manage "gradually, and with more freedom, their assets in foreign currencies."

The value of the dinar has been regularly set by the central bank according to a basket of currencies based mainly on the U.S. dollar, the French franc, the mark and to a lesser extent, the Italian lira.

Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (December 21- December 25, 1992)

AMMAN — Foreign exchange trading activity declined even further during the past week, as many market participants took an early vacation ahead of the Christmas weekend.

The main feature of the week was a dollar rally that started on Tuesday, pushing the U.S. unit above 1.59 marks. The rally was triggered when the Bundesbank president indicated that he was optimistic that German inflation rates could actually fall to three per cent from four per cent, and that when they approach the target of two per cent, long term three per cent interest rates could fall to six per cent.

While analysts pointed out that his comments were still conditional and did not indicate a change of policy, they nevertheless, agreed that they were the first optimistic hints to come from him. Moreover, analysts agreed that the timing of his statement might have been engineered to calm the markets and ease pressures against the French franc and the ERM, at least for the time being. Observers, on the other hand, do not rule out the possibility of a downward dollar correction in the coming fortnight.

Trading, hence, wound up early in New York on Christmas Eve, Thursday, while Tokyo was one of the very few centres to open for business Friday.

The dollar closed in New York at 1.5995 marks, 123.95 yen, and 235 dollars to the pound sterling Thursday, and was little changed the following day, as it closed in Tokyo at 1.5985 marks, 123.70 yen and 151.51 to the pound.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	18/12/1992 Close	25/12/1992 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.5560	1.5215	(2.24%)
Deutsche Mark	1.5640	1.5985	(2.16%)
Swiss Franc	1.4085	1.4435	(2.42%)
French Franc	5.3420	5.4545	(2.06%)
Japanese Yen	123.08	123.70	(0.50%)

Interbank Interest Rates

Currency	18/12/1992 1-Month (%)	18/12/1992 3-Month (%)	25/12/1992 1-Month (%)	25/12/1992 3-Month (%)
U.S. Dollar	3.31	4.00	3.75	3.87
Sterling Pound	7.37	6.81	7.00	6.75
Deutsche Mark	9.19	7.93	8.70	7.55
Swiss Franc	6.25	5.56	6.10	5.35
French Franc	12.00	9.75	10.75	9.38
Japanese Yen	3.90	3.65	3.87	3.65

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.0457	1.0509
Deutsche Mark	0.4300	0.4322
Swiss Franc	0.4761	0.4785
French Franc	0.1261	0.1267
Japanese Yen	0.5556	0.5584
Dutch Guilder	0.3821	0.3840
Swedish Krona	0.0973	0.0978
Italian Lira	0.0482	0.0484
Spanish Franc	0.02091	0.02101

COMPANY NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	915	3.620	3.640	3.640
JORDAN POSTAL BANK	77,642	2.470	2.450	2.470
THE HOUSING BANK	35,359	3.610	3.620	3.600
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	0.016	3.100	3.250	3.260
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	4,440	3.150	3.170	3.170
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	50,900	3.700	3.760	3.800
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1,836	3.150	3.150	3.200
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	54,862	4.440	4.470	4.470
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	37,760	4.700	4.720	4.720
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	15,124	1.800	1.820	2.010
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	10,324	1.780	1.780	1.780
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	25,379	4.440	4.720	4.280
BUSINESS BANK	3,210	3.240	3.200	3.220
DETT KLAN, GAVINVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	141,432	5.690	5.690	5.700
BANK OF JORDAN	22,720	30.500	18.750	39.100
ARAB BANK	61,640	128.500	129.500	128.000
MIDDLE EAST INSURANCE	200	2.700	2.800	2.800
JORDAN INSURANCE	14,237	3.300	3.450	3.150
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	67,676	3.570	3.630	3.630
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	4,752	3.170	3.168	3.200
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	6,256	1.500	1.510	1.520
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	96,324	6.300	6.300	6.200
ARAB HOTEL & TOURISM	7,773	1.210	1.220	1.230
JORDAN PRESS PUBLICATION / AL-NAT	52,500	10.000	10.300	10.300
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONDOMINIUM HOTELS	38,980	2.700	2.710	2.720
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	1,418	0.490	0.470	0.470
MACHINERY EQUIP. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	17,127	1.600	1.260	1.290
YEMSA SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	7,053	1.160	1.170	1.190
JORDAN GOLF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	29,665	0.000	0.000	0.000
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	65	1.240	1.300	1.300
JORDAN REALTY CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	126,446	1.970	2.000	1.980
JORDAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	132,015	2.020	2.030	2.020
JORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	2,550	2.500	2.550	2.560
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	118,327	11.600	11.400	11.350
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	106,705	6.870	7.000	7.070
ARAB CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES INDUSTRIES	27,710	6.360	6.400	6.400
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	71,030	24.000	24.000	24.100
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	221,575	0.030	0.050	0.070
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	61,476	11.390	11.400	11.340
THE JORDAN MORTGAGE HELLS	24,012	3.390	3.940	3.940
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	160,368	10.340	10.340	10.600
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	22,373	0.300	0.400	0.370
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	33,951	0.010	0.010	0.770
JORDAN PAPER & CARD BOARD FACTORIES	38,980	2.700	2.710	2.720
JORDAN PAPER INDUSTRIES	2,395	2.200	4.400	4.350
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	5,342	2.290	2.310	2.340
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	100,173	4.210	4.270	4.270
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	17,948	1.000	1.040	1.030
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	590	5.800	5.900	5.900
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	62,602	13.660	13.650	13.900
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	2,527	3.470	3.010	3.430
MOLES INDUSTRIES	10,725	2.750	2.720	2.770
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & WATER/JINDO	54,186	1.360	1.370	1.370
SPINNING & WEAVING	20,890	2.400	2.250	2.320
ATTACHMENT CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	2,674	1.250	1.310	1.310
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JINCO	6,663	3.840	4.050	4.050
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	310,900	7.350	7.450	7.450
JORDAN SELFHO-CHEMICALS	11,576	6.930	6.910	6.920
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	113,426	1.670	1.670	1.680
JORDAN SOCCOMOL INDUSTRIES	38,265	2.540	2.560	2.550
JORDAN PURCHASER CONCRETE INDUSTRY	39,030	0.430	0.450	0.450
UNIVERSAL HOUSING INDUSTRIES	246,840	5.840	5.870	5.830
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	504,428	3.140	3.140	3.190
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	1,300	25.000	24.000	24.000
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	187,456	5.050	5.410	5.450
GRAND TOTAL			3,012,654	

Kiev opens reform road

KIEV (R) — Thousands of Kiev workers protested against steep price rises Saturday but Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma defended harsh austerity measures as essential to the country's survival.

Mr. Kuchma said the slashing of subsidies on basic goods and services, which quadrupled the price of bread and sent the cost of a Kiev metro ride soaring by 10 times, was a painful and necessary step which could no longer be postponed.

"For a long time we spoke about reforms — but that was just talk, when in fact we were following a catastrophic course of events in the economy," he said in a statement.

"Now the government is forced to take highly unpopular measures and bring prices for a number of goods into line with their cost... if we do not take this burden on ourselves, then tomorrow it will weigh 100 times more heavily on our children," he added.

A loaf of bread which cost six to eight coupons (less than one U.S. cent) on Friday was selling for about 30 (three cents) in the capital Saturday. A journey on the metro leapt from 50 kopecks to five coupons.

More than 5,000 workers from Kiev's "Arsenal" factory, a defence plant close to parliament and government headquarters, demonstrated for several hours along with leaders of the Socialist (former communist) Party.

"The government has no right to allow the impoverishment of the people," said Valery Kravchenko, one of the leaders of the protest. A worker at the factory carried about 5,000 to 6,000 coupons (up to \$6.70 a month). Government ministers shrugged off the protest.

"We entered government not to win glory, but to carry out decisive reform," Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Oynzenyuk told reporters. "Our government cannot be frightened. We are responsible for our words and our actions."

Economic reform in Ukraine, the second most powerful of the former Soviet republics, has lagged far behind that in neighbouring Russia amid damaging tug-of-wars over policy in the year since independence.

Month-on-month inflation is running at 30 per cent and government figures show that the 1992 budget deficit was 44 per cent of gross national product in November.

Government economic advisers finished work Thursday on a new reform blueprint drawn up in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Mr. Kuchma defended the price rises, which also apply to milk, butter, other staple foods and housing rents. He said they had been forced by massive increases in the price of oil and gas.

"There was no alternative to such a decision... otherwise, a complete collapse of the economy and a halt in production awaited us. It is a question of the survival of the people and the state," said Mr. Kuchma's statement.

"We must travel this road — no one else will do it for us, and the longer we put it off, the harder it will be to control events," the prime minister added.

The increases came into effect in 11 of the country's 25 regions Saturday and were due to take effect in the remaining 14 by the end of the year.

While removing price controls on a number of products, the government has maintained them on some foods such as salt, sugar and vegetable oil, as well as on industrial goods in the chemical, machine-building and metallurgical sectors.

PASSPORT LOST

Name: Shinder Pal. Name of lather: Asha Ram. Passport No: L-779997. V.P.O. Rurka Kalan, Dist. Jalandhar, Punjab, India. Finders please inform the Indian embassy or police.

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ministry of Transport Aqaba Railway Corporation

Invitation for submission of pre-qualification data for the connection of Shidiya mine to ARC Railway line.

The closing date for the above mentioned submission of pre-qualification data is extended until 12 noon Saturday, Jan. 16, 1993, instead of Wednesday Dec. 30 1992. All other terms and conditions remain the same.

Best regards, M.M. Krishan, D.G. A.R.C.

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Bosnian government rejects Sarajevo evacuation plea

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia has rejected a plea to evacuate 1,500 people from its besieged capital Sarajevo, saying the plan brokered by European Community (EC) peace envoy Lord Owen is based on ethnicity.

"This was a scheme based on black sheep and white sheep and sheep of a third colour and we rejected it," Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic told Reuters Sunday.

However, a United Nations official scheduled to discuss the plan with Bosnian government officials Sunday was optimistic that the evacuation might still go ahead.

Lord Owen, who visited Sarajevo last week, asked the Bosnian government to permit three groups of 500 people from each of the country's main population groups — Muslims, Serbs and Croats — to leave Sarajevo over the Christmas holidays as a gesture of goodwill.

The plan originated with rebel Serbs besieging the city and was quickly endorsed by Croat military leaders, nominal allies of the Bosnian government in the country's civil war.

But the Muslim-led government said the evacuation proposal smacked of so-called ethnic cleansing.

"We are willing to discuss a different evacuation scheme but we are not going to agree to an ethnically based plan," Mr. Ganic said.

The government allowed about 15 disabled people from different population groups to leave Sarajevo Saturday.

"We permitted the disabled to leave because it was truly humanitarian and not political," Mr. Ganic said.

"We are fighting a war against the ethnic division of Bosnia...we don't participate in an ethnic scheme."

Meanwhile, British troops in Bosnia have come under renewed mortar attack from Serb positions, a military spokesman said Sunday. The mortar attack on the British troops took place on a road dubbed "bomb alley" near the eastern Bosnian town of Klancani Saturday.

Serb forces fired three mortar bombs at a convoy of four British Warrior armoured troop carriers, the spokesman said. There were no casualties.

"Everybody who goes down that road is running on a tightrope," said one British officer.

A United Nations spokesman said the Bosnian presidency had promised an investigation into attacks by Muslim forces on the U.N. Peacekeeping Force Headquarters in Sarajevo Thursday and Friday. A British soldier received a shrapnel wound in the leg in the first bombardment.

Bosnian Serb forces fired a surface-to-surface missile into the besieged northern Muslim town of Gradacac during an artillery bombardment Sunday, Sarajevo Radio said.

The missile hit the town at 7:30 a.m. but the radio said it was not known whether there were casualties.

Serb forces have been stepping up attacks on Gradacac and on joint Muslim and Croat lines around nearby Serb-held Brcko.

Both towns lie within the vulnerable Serb corridors across northern Bosnia linking Serbia

proper with areas of Croatia which are now under the control of ethnic Serbs.

The Bosnian capital Sarajevo was reported quiet apart from sporadic shelling of the Muslim suburb of Dobrinja during the night.

In Belgrade, the leaders of rump Yugoslavia have switched from public wrangling over the hotly-contested Serbian elections to invoking wishes for Balkan peace and democracy.

Milan Panic, the Yugoslav prime minister who stood against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and accused him of cheating in last Sunday's election, and Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic both congratulated him on his win Saturday.

"I think he won, I congratulated him and that's the end of that," Mr. Panic, a former U.S. businessman, said in an interview. But he threatened to resign as prime minister.

"I have informed Mr. Cosic that I do not plan to stay in government (with the constitution of congress (parliament) the way it is today)," Mr. Panic said.

"Therefore, when the government changes...I may resign."

Although the opposition made significant gains in parliament, the ruling Socialists and ardently nationalist Serbian Radical Party had the most seats.

Mr. Cosic also said he had considered resigning, but he would reluctantly stay in office. He asked Mr. Milosevic to work for democracy.

"The democratic process in this country will continue, and Mr. Milosevic is a part, I hope, of

that," Mr. Panic agreed. Mr. Milosevic said in an address shown on the main state-owned television station that he wanted to work for peace.

"We want to help to establish peace on all the territories of former Yugoslavia, to establish peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to help it be permanent," he said. He also promised to enforce law and order but did not explain what he meant.

In Geneva, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali both urged caution on foreign military intervention in Bosnia.

The two agreed that peace negotiators in the Swiss city should be given the chance to find a political settlement.

In Brussels, NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner Sunday called on Mr. Milosevic to halt the bloodshed in Bosnia.

"The secretary-general hopes that the president-elect will draw the consequences of the demand by the international community to halt the bloodshed and contribute to a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia for which Serbia is primarily responsible," a NATO spokesman said.

"The Serbian authorities are strongly urged to move from the deadlock into which their policy has led their own country."

"Full compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions is the only way towards a comprehensive settlement of the Yugoslav crisis to the benefit of all countries and peoples concerned, including Serbia and the Serbs."



A Croat child buys Christmas goods at the Markale market in Sarajevo (AFP photo)

Christmas weekend violence claims 30 lives in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Police and news reports Sunday listed 30 deaths nationwide in violence over the two-day Christmas holiday.

The South African Broadcasting Corp. (SABC) reported 18 people were killed in the Cape Town area since Christmas Eve. Few details of the deaths were reported.

Police also reported 12 deaths in the Johannesburg area and the eastern province of Natal.

The chronic violence has killed

thousands of blacks in recent years and hindered talks on ending white minority rule.

Police also said unidentified gunmen injured two people in a restaurant in Cape Town just before closing Saturday night.

Two men wearing balaclavas opened fire at workers and customers, wounding the owner and a chef, police and the SABC said. Nothing was taken from the restaurant, according to police.

The motive for the attack was unknown. Violence and political

fighting that has plagued South Africa in recent years usually occurs in black townships, and attacks in public places frequented by whites in major cities have been rare since the mid 1980s.

But recent attacks on whites in the Orange Free State and Eastern Cape province rekindled fears of a renewed armed struggle by militant blacks who oppose negotiations with the white government.

Time names Clinton its 'man of the year'

NEW YORK (R) — Time magazine has named U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton as its 1992 "Man of the Year" saying his election makes him the most powerful man in the world at a "radically unstable moment in history."

The magazine also cited Mr. Clinton's conduct of his 1992 campaign against President George Bush and said his victory puts him in a position "to preside over one of the periodic reinventions of the United States."

Mr. Clinton, whose picture appears on the cover of the magazine's Jan. 4 "Man of the Year" issue, takes office on Jan. 20.

Mr. Clinton, asked about the Time announcement while golfing in his native state of Arkansas, said "it's a great honour."

Time's cover story said Mr. Clinton's presidential campaign earned him the accolade due to "its threefold significance."

"The election has made the Arkansas man the most powerful man in the world — and therefore the most important — at a radically unstable moment in history, with the cold war ended, the world economy in trouble, and dangerous, heavily armed nationalisms rising around the globe."

In second place, it said, "Clinton's campaign, conducted with dignity, with earnest attention to issues... served to rehabilitate and restore the legitimacy of American politics and thus, prospectively, of government itself."

The Publication added: "Clinton's victory places him in position to preside over one of the periodic reinventions of the country — those moments when Americans dig out of their deepest problems by reimagining themselves."

Mr. Clinton is Time's 66th Man of the Year, joining figures ranging from Charles Lindbergh — the first "Man of the Year" in 1927 — to Adolf Hitler in 1938, Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963, Corazon Aquino in 1986 and George Bush in 1990.

In an interview with the magazine, Mr. Clinton said he was worried about three things as his presidency approached.

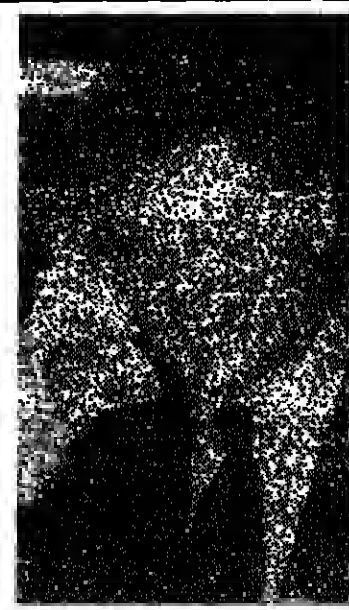
"One is that this is a very troubled world we live in," he said, citing developments in Russia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"The second thing I worry about is just getting bogged down. The voters have so much hope for us to do things... My third concern is purely personal. I want this to be a good move for our daughter..."

Meanwhile infighting over foreign trade policy has deeply split the Democratic Party less than a month before Mr. Clinton takes office, the New York Times said in its Sunday editions.

The newspaper, quoting Democratic congressman, said the divisions could hamper Mr. Clinton's efforts to push trade agreements through Congress after he becomes president.

The disagreements centre on how aggressively the new administration should confront foreign countries over trade issues, the newspaper said.



Bill Clinton

Niger says 'yes' to new constitution

NIAMEY (R) — Niger's citizens have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a new constitution, paving the way for the West African country's first free elections since independence from France in 1960.

The National Elections Commission said Sunday that interim results showed that over 89 per cent of those who voted in Saturday's referendum approved the new constitution.

The commission said that of some four million citizens entitled to vote, some 2.7 million registered with electoral authorities but only 1.5 million actually cast their ballots.

The commission said results from 3,245 polling stations had been counted and returns from 479 stations were still to be tallied.

It remained to be seen if presidential and parliamentary elections would go ahead on schedule in January and February.

A national conference stripped military President Ali Sabou of

his powers last year and set the timetable for multi-party elections, but they have been repeatedly postponed.

Prime Minister Amadou Cheifou and his transitional administration blame the delays on the state's near bankruptcy, strikes by civil servants and armed rebellion by Tuareg nomads in the north.

Electoral officials acknowledged that Saturday's referendum was marred by disorganisation and inadequate resources.

The White House said Saturday that it would release the material in question, along with Mr. Bush's 1988 testimony to the Iran-contra special prosecutor, as soon as transcript of the testimony was returned to him by the prosecutor.

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Watergate, involved secret weapons sales to Iran during the administration of Ronald Reagan to gain the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

Profits were used to arm the contra rebels fighting Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government after congress banned such aid in 1984.

In the interview with the Washington Post published Sunday, Mr. Walsh said Mr. Bush's belated disclosure of his notes fit a pattern of behaviour by senior officials that had the effect of protecting then-President Ronald Reagan from possible impeachment.

He said the pardon of Mr. Weinberger "is more devastating than the Reagan cover-up."

Mr. Bush, Mr. Walsh told the Post, has "stopped the trial of a confederate. Whether criminal or not, it shows the ethics of the administration in a way that I could not have demonstrated."

He added that the cumulative evidence would have shown that a November 1985 shipment by Israel of U.S.-made arms to Iran was "a deliberate violation of the arms control export act"

approved by Mr. Reagan himself. The evidence showed that in November 1986, when the scandal was disclosed, Mr. Reagan and his top aides tried to conceal the violation, in part by saying they did not know it had taken place until months later, Mr. Walsh told the Post.

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U.S., Russia to wrap up START 2

GENEVA (R) — The United States and Russia will make an attempt Monday to wrap up a disarmament pact that could set the seal of history on President George Bush's foreign policy record.

U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev will hold a day of negotiations towards a Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START-2) treaty dramatically cutting cold war nuclear arsenals.

If they succeed, both sides would eliminate all land-based multiple warhead missiles — seen as the most dangerous and destabilising of nuclear weapons. Stockpiles of atomic warheads would be slashed by up to two-thirds.

A deal in Geneva this week would also pave the way for Mr. Bush to hold a triumphant end-of-term summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin before he leaves the White House on Jan. 20.

But U.S. officials, annoyed by a declaration by Mr. Yeltsin 10 days ago that a START-2 deal had already been struck, say they

will not be pressured into a bad deal just to give their defeated president a good send-off.

"Simply because we're running to the end of this administration does not mean that we're going to rush to try to get an agreement under any circumstances. We won't do that," Mr. Eagleburger told reporters earlier this month.

The outlines of START-2, following the landmark START accord signed with the former Soviet Union in July 1991, were agreed by Mr. Bush and Mr. Yeltsin at a summit in Washington last June.

The presidents' so-called joint understanding far exceeded the hopes of arms control experts with its proposed deep cuts in strategic nuclear warhead stockpiles from around 10,000 each to between 3,000 and 3,500.

Those cuts would bring Russia's arsenal down to Soviet levels of the mid-1970s and the United States' to that of the 1960s.

Mr. Bush won particular praise for persuading Mr. Yeltsin to scrap Russia's 308 10-warhead SS-18 missiles, the most dangerous in the history of nuclear arms.

But in negotiations since the June summit, including meetings

between Mr. Eagleburger and Mr. Kozyrev, progress has been slow. When it came to drafting the treaty, the two sides became bogged down in technicalities.

On top of two telephone conversations between the two presidents last week, negotiations have been continuing at a lower level in Geneva to overcome the remaining obstacles.

Officials say the negotiations have focused on three issues, first among them Russia's refusal so far to destroy the silos used for the multi-warhead SS-18s.

Agreement was also being sought on reducing the number of warheads on Russian SS-19s, and on restrictions on the U.S. bomber fleet as warplanes are converted to non-nuclear uses.

U.S. and Russian officials were refusing to comment Sunday on the progress of the most recent talks or the likelihood of Mr. Kozyrev, accompanied by Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, striking a deal with Mr. Eagleburger Monday.

If the two sides do not reach agreement Monday but one still looks within reach, the negotiations are likely to continue Tuesday morning.

Top Italian policeman accused of being mafia spy

ROME (R) — Italy's fight against the mafia was again in disarray as magistrates sought Sunday to determine whether a senior police officer arrested on Christmas Eve was the crime organisation's highest-placed spy for years.

Bruno Contrada, 61, an official in the civilian secret services SISDE, was arrested in Palermo, the capital of Sicily, after four mafia turncoats accused him of long-standing links with the crime cartel.

Mr. Contrada, who was being interrogated by magistrates in a Rome military jail Sunday, was the most senior official to have been arrested on the evidence of mafia informers.

His arrest sent shock waves through Italy's police establishment because of his long career in some of the most sensitive anti-mafia bodies.

Before working for the secret services, Mr. Contrada served as head of the police mobile squad in the Sicilian capital, headed another anti-crime unit there and was an aide to the national anti-mafia commissioner.

His arrest, ordered by investigating magistrates on evidence from the mafia informers, left police grappling with what the Rome newspaper Il Messaggero called "a sordid mystery."

Was Mr. Contrada a high-placed mole in the pay of organised crime during all the years he held such sensitive posts? Or should the testimony of the "repentant" mafiosi be dismissed as unreliable?

The 68-year-old president, undisputed leader for the past 14 years, faces an angry and ambitious opposition whose threat has been diluted by squabbling over who should challenge him.

Whoever wins, the parliamentary and presidential polls put Kenya at a crossroads in its 29-year independent history. The era of slavish obedience to presidential rule is over and Kenya will never be the same again.

Once united to topple him, the opposition has splintered along tribal lines and Mr. Moi faces three pretenders for his job where a single candidate might have stood a better chance.

They are Mwai Kibaki, a vice-president who deserted Moi to lead the Democratic Party, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, a thorn in Mr. Moi's side for 20 years and head of Ford-Kenya, and Kenneth Matiba, once jailed by Mr. Moi for daring to call for democracy.

All three accuse Mr. Moi and his ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU) of dirty tricks — of buying votes, bribing opposition candidates to step down and obstructing their access to key areas where they might have won seats.

Mr. Moi's spokesmen say these are the desperate allegations of people who know the results will show they are only also-rans.

Walsh reportedly to question Bush in January

WASHINGTON (R) — The Iran-contra special prosecutor will seek next month to question President George Bush, now the subject of the six-year-old inquiry into possible wrongdoing in the affair, the Washington Post said Sunday.

Citing informed sources, the newspaper said any such questioning would take place after prosecutor Lawrence Walsh reviews Mr. Bush's notes about the Iran-contra affair that were first made known to prosecutors 16 days ago.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole denounced Mr. Walsh Saturday night, saying he was "completely out of control."

"He's bitter, petty and vindictive, so now he wants to turn his own six years of incompetence into a personal vendetta against President Bush," Sen. Dole said in a statement. "There's only one final act left for Mr. Walsh: immediate resignation."

In an interview with the Washington Post published on Sunday, Mr. Walsh said that he had not yet decided what to do about Mr. Bush's "misconduct"

— a reference to his alleged withholding of certain Iran-contra material.

Questioning of Mr. Bush is not likely to occur until after he leaves office on Jan. 20, the Washington Post said, without citing a source.

Mr. Walsh's prosecutors had already begun an inquiry into the hitherto-secret notes when Mr. Bush announced his Christmas Eve pardons of former Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and five other Reagan administration officials involved in the affair, the Post said.

Spokesman for the White House and for Mr. Walsh were not available for comment on the reported plan to question Mr. Bush. But such a plan was widely reported even before Mr. Walsh accused Mr. Bush Thursday of withholding material and continuing a cover-up of the affair.

On Saturday, special prosecutor spokeswoman Mary Belcher called belated Mr. Bush's offer to release his notes on the affair to refute charges of a cover-up.

The Iran-contra affair, the biggest White House scandal since

Watergate, involved secret weapons sales to Iran during the administration of Ronald Reagan to gain the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

Profits were used to arm the contra rebels fighting Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government after congress banned such aid in 1984.

In the interview with the Washington Post published Sunday, Mr. Walsh said Mr. Bush's belated disclosure of his notes fit a pattern of behaviour by senior officials that had the effect of protecting then-President Ronald Reagan from possible impeachment.

He said the pardon of Mr. Weinberger "is more devastating than the Reagan cover-up."

Mr. Bush, Mr. Walsh told the Post, has "stopped the trial of a confederate. Whether criminal or not, it shows the ethics of the administration in a way that I could not have demonstrated."

He added that the cumulative evidence would have shown that a November 1985 shipment by Israel of U.S.-made arms to Iran was "a deliberate violation of the arms control export act"

approved by Mr. Reagan himself. The evidence showed that in November 1986, when the scandal was disclosed, Mr. Reagan and his top aides tried to conceal the violation, in part by saying they did not know it had taken place until months later, Mr. Walsh told the Post.

Mr. Walsh's chief prosecutor for the Weinberger case, James Brosnahan, was quoted by the Post as saying the Weinberger pardon may have been designed to head off the threat to Mr. Reagan and Mr. Bush of being called as witnesses at a Weinberger trial due to begin Jan. 5.

The White House said Saturday that it would release the material in question, along with Mr. Bush's 1988 testimony to the Iran-contra special prosecutor, as soon as transcript of the testimony was returned to him by the prosecutor.

Mr. Walsh said Thursday that Mr. Bush was now the "subject" of his investigation. The term refers to conduct within the scope of the inquiry, but does not mean Mr. Bush is targeted for indictment.

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